

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **CELBRIDGE**  
County : **KILDARE**  
Category : **F**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 13-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	37
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	26	24
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>191</b>

## **Celbridge, County Kildare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you very much for your completed entry form which is very full of information relating to this year and the very informative five year plan document. The submitted plan was very helpful for illustrating the extent of works carried out within the past year and the Committee must be complimented for the conciseness of documentation. On a last note, the Community Notice Board was a very informative method of advertising local issues and this must be helpful for tasks that the Committee intends to carry out.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Celbridge is expanding at a tremendous rate, similar to other urban areas around the Dublin region. It is fortunate that the scale of new works relates to the peripheral of the town as the main street environment provides a small town atmosphere. Perhaps the level of car parking does diminish the quaintness of the main street and this must be controlled, particularly around the entry gates to Castletown House and the bridge over the Liffey. The current development of overhanging signs are beginning to destroy the presentation of shop front elevations and if they are to be the standard method of shop advertising, then a theme for their presentation should be considered. The new buildings outside the town centre need much stronger landscape treatment to associate with the established setting of Celbridge. The comments in the submission to Kildare County Council on the Draft Development Plan were a very positive contribution to the role of a Tidy Towns Committee in the future of Celbridge and the Committee must be complimented. It would seem to be a good idea to enlarge the water body beside the footbridge.

### **LANDSCAPING**

There are some very fine landscape features associated with Celbridge. The adjudication did not involve Castletown House, however the Pauper's Graveyard is an excellent stand of Yew trees. The landscape treatment around the Mill and Celbridge Abbey reinforce the amenity value, while the planting of new large standards on the Clane Road will be a significant long term contribution. The new shrub beds at the town signs are helpful, but consideration should be given to efforts in reducing maintenance and thus greater investment should be directed into tree planting. The hanging baskets and tubs at the bridge junction present a very effective means of introducing colour to the junction. Perhaps the car park to the public house could be better screened.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

There would seem to be a very diligent approach to preserving minor habitats that extend into the centre of the town and there is good understanding of the variety of habitats available. It would be helpful to make comment as to the integration of this category with educational programmes.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There are a lot of potential litter sources on the main street and other areas in the town. The lack of litter demonstrates a strong policy for controlling this problem. In particular the main street was very well maintained and the experience for potential tourists would be very satisfying.

## **TIDINESS**

There is a marked contrast between the residential and commercial areas. The car parking on the main street is perhaps the most significant intrusion on the presentable aspects for this urban space, however the shop signage could have a more detrimental impact if not better controlled. All residential areas are very new and present very tidy environments with a strong consistency through all. The new tubs at the entrance to Castletown House seem out of context with the classical stone gates and perhaps detract from this historical feature. Perhaps a more appropriate design would improve the appearance at this area.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There are nearly too many to go into detail on. However, Raphael Manor, Abbey Far, Oak Leigh and Celbridge Abbey all demonstrate very strong landscape objectives in their setting and have good management programmes.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Hopefully the trees along the Clane Road will be continued to form a very strong entry theme into the town and that the same species will be used. All entry roads are well maintained and at present are experiencing significant amounts of development at the edges so that established consistency of road setting is offset by new works. This should present an opportunity of ensuring a greater street tree programme to be instigated and perhaps the Development Plan should address this type of opportunity when it is being re-examined during the forthcoming year.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Celbridge is an important town in this Competition as the population scale is large enough to have problems that become significant negative impacts on the setting of the

town. Celbridge has managed to display a very positive direction in dealing with these impacts and all involved must be complimented on their contribution to making this town a very pleasant experience to visit.