

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALBRIGGAN**  
County : **DUBLIN**  
Category : **E**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 11-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	27
The Built Environment	40	22	22
Landscaping	40	23	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	22	21
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>176</b>

## **Balbriggan, County Dublin**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Many thanks for your completed application form, attractive map and comprehensive three-year work programme, all of which were most helpful on adjudication day. Your work programme seems to be a sensible one and we wish you the best of luck with your future endeavours for the town.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The standard of presentation in this category was quite disappointing on the day, although one or two buildings stood out from the rest. The credit union was very fresh, it is indeed an interesting building for its combined use of stone and plaster. The railway station is a very quaint building. However, some litter was evident in the car park and the picket fence to the side of it should be re-whitewashed. The Carnegie Library building is another fine building, built in brick with its corner turret. The Church of Ireland and its grounds were also greatly admired. Some attractive landscaping was evident at a number of public buildings in the town including the Garda Station and the schools. The Community Centre located in the old cinema was fine. An attractive old warehouse opposite the entrance to the railway station with plaster plaques was greatly admired. There are a number of good traditional shop fronts such as Reynolds and Gavin's which would benefit from some attention. A great number of the buildings in the town looked quite grey and grim on the day. Island Casuals, although the adjudicator noted that it was closing down, appeared in very bad condition. Life night-club at the harbour area was in need of a fresh coat of paint as was the AIB. The gable wall to the Central Lounge looked to be in very bad condition in its prominent location. Do encourage the removal of plastic signage and its replacement with that of a more traditional timber variety.

### **LANDSCAPING**

As previously mentioned a number of the public buildings of the town contributed well to this aspect of the competition. Of particular note was the community school with attractive display of lupins. Do encourage the landscaping of forecourt areas at petrol stations. The car park area opposite the church appeared to be quite grim and is in need of some further landscaping. The metal frames at the entrance to the car park appeared quite rusty and in need of a fresh coat of paint, as indeed were those to Quay Street car park. The attractive landscaped area opposite Wavin on the Dublin Road was greatly admired and the new trees are coming along nicely. The grassy banks to Wavin itself looked well as

indeed did the cheerful flowerbeds by the Castlelands Estate. The “Welcome to Balbriggan” sign is a cheerful one. The attractive landscaping to the Quay Street car park area was greatly admired, however, there is scope for further work in this location.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The adjudicator noted that you did not complete this section of the application form and make reference to it only in year three. Do read your Tidy Towns Handbook in order to garner further information in relation to this aspect of the competition. Local experts in the field could also be of help. Balbriggan obviously has a wealth of interesting marine wildlife including seals to which you have made reference in your application.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The standard in this category of the competition was quite good on adjudication day, although there were a number of problem areas. Papers were evident on both the Dublin and Belfast approach roads. The odd paper and bottle was apparent at the river at Quay Street car park. A number of bottles were noted outside the Life night-club – this area was also quite weedy. Papers and bags were also noted at the archway to the beach on Convent Lane.

## **TIDINESS**

As previously mentioned the buildings of the town looked quite grey on adjudication day. Weed control was obviously a problem. Weeding appeared to be necessary to the curb sides outside the Church of Ireland and a weedy gravelled forecourt area to a house opposite Sunshine House on the same road looked unfortunate. Do try to discourage the practice of hoardings as they can make approach roads look rather cluttered. The storage of building materials at the speed limit sign on the Belfast Road looked quite messy, hopefully these will be removed once construction is completed. Weeds were also apparent to the kerbsides on the Balcadden Road. Graffiti was evident at the archway to the beach and to the metal handrails of the bridges over the stream at the Quay Street car park. The recycling area in this location was fine.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Houses throughout the town and along approach roads looked well on adjudication day. However, a number of boundary walls to houses on the Church Street corner were in need of a fresh coat of paint. St. Peter’s Terrace looked very fresh and its attractive gardens, highly visible through the front railings were greatly admired. Some attractive houses with gardens spilling to the roadside on the Balcadden Road were also greatly admired. Estates were generally fine; of particular

note was Hamlet Close with its attractive stone nameplate and planted bed at its entrance area. St. Paul's Crescent was fine.

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

Both the Dublin and Belfast approach roads were reasonable on adjudication day. It was noted that roadworks were in progress in the town-hence the Belfast Road appeared quite overgrown and verges appeared to have yet to be planted with grass seed. The broken nameplate on Drogheda Street on this side of the town looked unfortunate. Most of the side streets of the town were in good condition. However, the rear areas from the harbour to the railway station looked quite neglected.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Balbriggan is an attractive seaside town with a wealth of history and a number of attractive buildings of note. Good luck with your future endeavours.