

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALROTHERY VILLAGE**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	22
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	21	21
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	179	174

Balrothery, County Dublin

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Many thanks for your three to five year work programme. Balrothery has quite a large committee for the size of the village and we wish you good luck in garnering further support from the local community.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Public and commercial premises of the village generally looked well cared for on adjudication day. The Balrothery Inn looked very fresh in yellow, as was Delaney's Mini-Market in white. The school grounds were well maintained, however, the building itself appeared quite grubby, as did the boundary wall. The gates and barrier were also in need of a fresh coat of paint. The charming old church with its square stone tower and magnificent grounds set as it is on the hill above the village looks quite magnificent. The Recycling Depot was well-maintained and clear of rubbish.

LANDSCAPING

The metal planters either side of the entrance road to the village were admired. The old village pump in orange and white with tubs filled with petunias surrounding it adjacent to the Merry Cricketer Pub also looked well. In terms of further landscaping projects perhaps the concrete post and wire fence surrounding the field opposite the shop could be replaced with a stone wall or indigenous hedge of beech or hawthorn.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Do get the local schoolchildren involved – perhaps they could put together a map of the local wildlife habitats of the area. The Tidy Towns Handbook will set you on the road to progressing this aspect of the competition further. Also included in this document are contact numbers for organisations which could help you in this regard.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard of litter control was quite good on adjudication day. However, every small item of litter is all the more evident in a village of Balrothery's size. There were papers along the base of the post and wire fence at each side of the field in the centre of the village. The odd paper was also evident in the car park of the Balrothery Inn and quite a lot was apparent at the cross-roads opposite School Lane. A damaged/vandalised

post box located in the church boundary wall was stuffed full of papers!

TIDINESS

The general impression of the village was of a neat and ordered appearance. Weed control was a problem at curb sides in the village centre and at the brick pavements at the entrance to Balrothery off the main road. The wall by School Lane looked very grim and should be whitewashed before next year's competition – the side wall at Delaney's Mini-Market was in similar condition. The shed beside the Merry Cricketer was also in need of a fresh coat of paint – perhaps keg storage in this area could be more successfully screened from public view.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses throughout the village and in estates generally looked well cared for on adjudication day. However, don't forget gable walls when considering overall presentation of houses. Some boundary walls were in need of attention and were cracked, broken or in need of a fresh coat of paint. The thatched cottage looked quite quaint with its red, pink and purple geraniums in its window boxes. The houses of the Tudor Hamlet estate were generally well cared for and Rose cottage looked very fresh in white.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The entrance to the village looked quite welcoming on adjudication day and the roads were generally in good condition. As previously mentioned in this report, weed control appeared to be a problem in certain areas on the day. Do repaint the directional signs in the centre of the village as they looked quite faded and barely legible.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Balrothery is a unique and interesting village steeped in historical and cultural heritage. It continues to make steady progress in the competition.