

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYMORE EUSTACE**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 25-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	34
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	25	26
Tidiness	20	13	14
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	217	216

Ballymore Eustace, County Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ballymore is improving each year and there was evidence of a considerable amount of work and effort on the day of adjudication. There were people in the streets cleaning up and sweeping and a genuine pride in the village is evident. Thank you for your comments, and map. It is noted from last years adjudication form that a further plan is required. Perhaps now that you are to develop further the riverside walk that this, alongwith plans in other categories can be included with next year's application. It is good to note that you rate involvement with the local schools so highly.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The village still retains its village character and this is reflected in a number of the buildings. County Kitchens is a fine building and is painted a colour which enhances its local environment. The Thatch (or the lost Thatch!), Mick Murphys, Paddy Murphys – wonderfully painted cream and blue, the Ballymore Inn and Headons all looked well. The Mace Store had a clutter of merchandise outside it. The Church of Ireland looked quite run down and so does the graveyard. The RC Church in the Centre of the village looked well and had some nicely painted railings. The blue and white of the Garda Station would present a good background for some red geraniums. Donaghys Motors looked neat and tidy - well done. There are some derelict buildings and cottages. Hopefully their potential will be realised and investment will lead to their restoration. The school on the Naas approach is superbly landscaped and well maintained – well done to all involved.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping was carried out in a careful manner through the village. There was some wonderful planting of Lonicera and Pyracantha on the walls near St. Brigids Park. A garden here had some fine roses which were beginning to bloom. The landscaping at Donaghy Motors was fine though do consider more permanent planting – it creates better year round structure and is easier to maintain in the long term. Landscaping on the Naas approach was also noticed and is commendable.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The village is fortunate in having a river running through it. The riverside walk was done well. Unfortunately there was

some litter and quite an amount of dog fouling noted on the day. The judges realise that you are at the initial stages of developing this walk and these issues will be dealt with no doubt. The new trees will look well as they mature and the flag irises must make an impact when they are in flower. It really is a very tranquil spot. A decision has to be made whether to make the area more visitor friendly with seating/ benches/ tables / cutting of grass, shrubs etc. or to manage the existing habitat. At present the cutting back has encouraged the growth of nettles and this needs to be addressed. Perhaps a number of trees could be planted on the higher bank of the walk. Native flora could be encouraged and an area managed as a wildflower meadow. The area has such great potential and is an exciting project. The judges wish you the best of luck with it.

LITTER CONTROL

There was some litter in residential areas off the Hollywood approach road, though this and the litter beside the river was the only litter seen. The main street and the other residential areas were clean. Tidy Towns bins were noted. These presumably are painted like this to raise the profile of the committee. It is good to see that the local schools get involved with litter eradication and this will bring its benefits in the long term.

TIDINESS

Overall the village appeared tidy on the day of adjudication. As you reach this level in the competition, attention to detail is required. There were a few weedy areas in gutters, some exterior boundary walls required a fresh coat of paint and some tin roofs (considered officially as part of our vernacular architecture) needed attention.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residential areas in the village were well kept. The estate off the Hollywood approach had well kept houses though the green areas did need a further cutting back of grass. The village is characterised by the numerous small cottages, many of them well maintained and some sporting some fine hanging baskets. St. Brigids Park and the other houses in this estate looked very well. New trees had been planted and some fine peony roses were used in the landscaping. Hillcrest was also well presented and some of the houses had wonderful gardens. The houses on the Hollywood approach also looked well – well done.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads were all well maintained. The Hollywood approach was neat and tidy. The cobbled culvert up the road beside P. Murphy is a nice feature to have in any village. The

Old Ballymore sign near Donaghys Motors looked well though was twisted around. These signs are becoming increasingly rare so care needs to be taken of them. The Naas approach looked very well and the new trees will make a difference to the approach. It was well cut back and the stone name sign is commendable

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballymore Eustace continues to progress well in the competition. Valuable marks can be gained by eradicating litter altogether and implementing an anti litter campaign aimed at both the schools and the local community. A structured development plan featuring all categories of the competition and evidence of your networking and co-operative community skills would also help you gain additional marks as well as help to give greater direction in the future. Good luck with future work.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (08/08/00)

Ballymore Eustace is a place of considerable charm, the potential for which has not yet quite been realised. It was good to see work in progress in the Market Square on the second adjudication day. This area, with the adjoining Main Street, was looking extremely well; unfortunately a surprising amount of kerbside weed had grown up elsewhere, and was especially noticeable along the length of Barrack Street. There was also an unusual amount of litter, mainly in the vicinity of The Anvil. Such discrepancies, minor though they may be, are eye-catching, creating an immediately poor impression – when in fact the greater proportion of the village is well kept. (A good example of this prevailing contrast is the excellent flower arrangement at Donaghy's and the weedy roadside.) The River Walk is a splendid concept (though not yet well enough developed from a landscaping point of view, for example in the neighbourhood of the lovely old bridge) to be considered for an award: that must be for the future; and it is clear that there is plenty of energy and initiative which will result in the kind of improvements that will be eagerly looked forward to.