

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **CASTLEBELLINGHAM-KILSARAN**  
County : **LOUTH**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 29-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>211</b>

## **Castlebellingham-Kilsaran, County** **Louth**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The detailed map provided was much appreciated and your comments on the entry form noted. We look forward to receiving a copy of your new development plan with next year's application. You will need to submit this plan, with each year's completed projects clearly highlighted, in order to gain extra points in the competition. The committee must be commended on the good work carried out to date, in an extremely challenging environment. As stated last year, things should become much easier once the new motorway opens.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There is a very interesting range of historical and contemporary buildings between the two villages. The area containing the Castle Gates, Widows Houses and Church of Ireland is most attractive. The Church in Kilsaran is impressive on its elevated site. Most of the business premises are well presented; especially noteworthy are Mulhollands Pub, Foleys Tearooms, Kilsaran Credit Union, the Crowing Cock and Reckett's Factory. However, other properties look uncared for and need to be painted. It is hoped that the new housing development on the waste ground in the centre of Castlebellingham will be in keeping with the character of the village and that a suitable use will be found for the Old Mill, which forms a central part of the built environment. New development in the area will hopefully solve the problems of the derelict properties along the Annagassan Road.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The small green in the centre of Castlebellingham is well maintained. The rose beds at the pump and the tubs of flowers along the main street create a pleasant scene as one enters the village. Landscaping work along the banks of the Glyde is impressive. The school and church grounds are attractively presented. Some of the shrub beds along the main road in Kilsaran would benefit from some extra attention to weeding and additional planting, to help them thrive in this difficult location. The picnic area on the Stabannon Road is very well kept.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The river Glyde and its banks, along with the Seabank area

are very rich wildlife habitats. It's a wonderful resource to have the sea so close. A riverside walk would be a valuable amenity; perhaps this could be explored as a project for the future? The wildflower garden at the corner of the Stabannon road was in full bloom on the day of the adjudication. You could encourage the local school children to get involved in projects to identify the local wildlife habitats and produce an information board on their findings. Perhaps you could provide some more information on the nature walk on Miss Anne's Lane. E.g. what species of wildlife and plants can be seen here and where does the walk lead to?

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Some litter was noted along the main street in Castlebellingham, on the corner opposite the Post Office and behind the railings in the field sloping down to the Glyde. However, in a centre where 29,000 vehicles pass through every day, litter control must be extremely difficult. Keep up your efforts and you will see progress.

### **TIDINESS**

Both villages have a fairly tidy appearance. As mentioned last year, the incidence of obtrusive plastic signage and overhead wires can detract from this. More attention to weeding of public spaces is needed, e.g. the Parish Hall carpark, the carpark opposite Kilsaran Concrete and the shrubs beds along the main road.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There are many very attractive houses and gardens on all approach roads. The Widows Houses are charming and residences along the banks of the Glyde are impressive. Beech Grove is presented to a high standard. St. Marys Villas is outstanding, with excellent planting and tidy greens. St. Olivers Park is neatly kept with well cut greens, but would benefit from additional planting and painting of some boundary walls. The thatched cottage on the Dromiskin Road unfortunately remains derelict.

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

Approach roads are well presented with neatly trimmed verges. Restoration of the stone wall on the Williamstown Road is a worthwhile project. Footpaths are in good condition, but some of the carpark surfaces need to be upgraded and cleared of weeds as mentioned above. The condition of some derelict sites should improve with the new developments on the way.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The new motorway will bring welcome relief from the

constant heavy traffic and provide the opportunity for Castlebellingham-Kilsaran to develop further as a pleasant and attractive village. Your hard work has provided a solid basis for continued progress over the coming years.