

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYCANEW**
County : **WEXFORD**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 20-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	40
The Built Environment	40	25	23
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	26	23
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	22	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	208	199

Ballycanew, Co. Wexford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

This is another splendid presentation from a rapidly improving centre. Many thanks for the detailed plan, useful map and most interesting schedule of Before and After photographs. The map, in particular, was a model of how best to present the development and could with advantage be adopted by every Tidy Town centre. Thank you indeed for its usefulness on the day of adjudication. Being a rural community on a busy road, Ballycanew has had to work hard to develop a clear-cut division between the village and the surrounding, rural countryside. This has been achieved particularly well on the Gorey Road. We did not observe a similar village nameplate on the Wexford approach. The core of the village, around St Mogue's Church, is progressively being better presented, while the development of the riverside amenity area is a pure delight.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Saint Mogue's Church, very much the core of the village, is well presented, but perhaps slightly hidden by the large surrounding wall. Is there a case to be made for reducing the height of this wall? The houses on Ounavarra River Road, replacing the formerly derelict houses, are a delight. The presentation of shops within the village is of a high order as is that of the visually important, former school building at the junction of the Wexford Road. St Moline's Catholic Church and the buildings either side, were well presented.

LANDSCAPING

Extensive, successful projects have been undertaken in this category. Pride of place goes to the delightful Ounavarra River development which, when fully mature, will be a major plus within the village. Please ensure that suitable signposting is installed. Select shrubs and plants which have a minimum maintenance requirement. The terracotta coloured pipe for surface water dispersal from the road is, perhaps, not appropriate. Screening or an alternative method might be considered. Our applause to the landowner who facilitated the tree planting on the opposite side of the river. Compliments also to the farmer for the splendid planting outside the farmyard at the junction with the Wexford Road. As always, the presentation of the school grounds was a credit to all involved. The planting in front of the co-operative could, with advantage, receive additional attention. The efforts of individual householders in the presentation of colourful and well-conceived gardens are applauded and play an important part in the overall,

high presentation.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The school-based project is well conceived and the involvement of the students themselves, within the school, is a major, long-term strategy which is applauded. The Ounavarra River area, being a sanctuary, will soon attract additional ducks, waterhens and other wildlife. The erection of bird tables in Ounavarra Estate is again a positive and beneficial step forward. Practical matters, such as the creation of compost in the school grounds, are worthwhile elements in an overall good programme.

LITTER CONTROL

Surprisingly, for a village so energetic in other elements and with a large measure of wide community support, litter continues to be somewhat of a problem in some parts of the centre. Sadly, even at your delightful riverside development some discarded items in the river itself were very much in evidence. This even with a suitable litter bin at the site. Litter is still not something that can be assumed to be a thing of the past even in this centre which is making such strides.

TIDINESS

The overall image and impression of Ballycanew is of a neat, orderly and very well presented centre. Clear cut divide lines between the road and pathways - well swept pathways - and a near total absence of weeds at the base of walls all contribute to a pleasing overall picture. In some instances goods for sale - or for collection later - are stored to the front, or still in view to the sides, of shops and stores. Large scale commercial undertakings, for example Fox Brothers Engineering, would benefit from additional screening.

Some loose stones remain in the triangle between the old and the new road at the village centre. The white fencing opposite the village name plate on the Gorey Road, needs some repairs.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses opposite the school are a delight and very well presented. We welcome the new houses being built on the Ounavarra River Road. The grassed areas at Ounavarra Park were very well presented, adorned with suitable flower beds and rockerys. Individual houses here projected a somewhat varied presentation. Houses on the Wexford Road were in most cases excellent but in some cases, weeds and spoil had accumulated between the front walls and the roads

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The excellent village name plates at the Ounavarra River road, Gorey road and at the stud farm approaches are a delight, set off by suitable planting. A name plate was not observed on the Wexford Road. The speed limit signs were clear and clear of undergrowth with the verges appropriately cut back. The phone box and area was neat and well presented. The grassed areas leading to the new wall was again suitably cut.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballycanew is a delightful centre, well presented and projecting to the optimum degree its rich reserve of built heritage and landscape. Particularly applauded is the manner in which the school students have been made central to your tidy towns activities.

All associated with another excellent presentation are applauded for their efforts and congratulated on their achievements.