

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLYMURN**  
County : **WEXFORD**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	34
The Built Environment	40	29	30
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	32	33
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>222</b>

## **Ballymurn, County Wexford**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Ballymurn is a small, rural village which has successfully established a clear cut division between the surrounding rural situation and the village proper. The Hay Memorial, on the Ballinkeele Road is exceptionally well presented, as is Killmallock Cemetery. Thank you for the detailed programme of development 1998-2000, outlining your various objectives – and achievements. It is necessary now to produce a “rolling” plan for the next three years. This should take account of the extent of new building which is likely to increase with each passing year.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The buildings of note within the village have all been very well presented. The church, in its elevated location, was particularly well set off by the fine and suitably maintained grounds. The hall, 1939, and the credit union, 1965, were each positive elements. The estate wall, leading to the gate to Ballinkeeffe have been very well presented and we liked especially, the “fitted” seats. The Hay Family memorial, while not, strictly, within the village proper, is very well presented. Attention is directed to the splendid, dressed stone gates a short distance from the memorial. This might represent an additional, beneficial feature to be developed. We are disappointed to note the lack of progress with the removal of the derelict house in front of a house being built for many years now, on the road to Killmallock Cemetery.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The splendid rockery and flowerbeds at the entrance to St Joseph’s Terrace has matured very well. Its presentation was a delight. The communal grassed areas here are also very well presented. The new cemetery’s front facing wall was very well painted and topped in black paint. The shrubbery within the school grounds was equally well presented. The historic cemetery was appropriately, but not excessively, manicured. Some arrangement may be necessary to alleviate the very obvious danger of crossing the road here. Additional signage is strongly recommended. The wartime apple trees seem to be somewhat competing for space with encroaching undergrowth.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

This section may offer additional scope for improvement when the plans outlined in your programme reach maturity. We welcome the presence of nesting boxes in the school grounds. It is important to ensure that a programme of

public awareness and appreciation for wildlife is linked to the physical development.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

As to be expected, litter management is of a high order within the centre. This collective, communal attitude to litter, coupled with the provision of sensibly sized and suitably designed litter bins is the secret of your success. Litterbins were noted at St Joseph's car park, in the school entrance area and elsewhere as necessary. Their presence was augmented by the Keep Ballymurn Tidy signs at the school.

## **TIDINESS**

The centre generally conveys a sense of neatness, and order which is very pleasing. The Recycle for Life installation was well presented and suitably located. Some road surfaces would benefit from sweeping as would the foreground of the school. Some weeds were permitted to flourish at the kerb at St Joseph's Terrace car park. The base of the church wall would benefit from power cleaning. This, unhappily, is an ongoing difficulty which will require constant attention. The very fine wrought iron gates to Ballykeele House would benefit from repainting and, there remains, a number of missing elements that require attention.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The individual housing stock in Ballymurn is presented in an exemplary fashion. St Joseph's Terrace is a delight with a slight reservation of the roadway requiring sweeping. Houses opposite the school were very well presented. Crancore House is an excellent private dwelling suitably set off by appropriate planting. The individual houses on the Oylegate Road are a delight with exceptionally good garden displays.

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

The speed limit and village nameplate signs were uniformly well presented. The Welcome to Ballymurn signs were also very positive. Roadways generally were well swept with occasional lapses from this high standard. Hedgerows were appropriately cut back which helped to accentuate the division between rural and the village itself. Some potholing and unravelling roads were noted in St Joseph's Terrace area.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Ballymurn had enthusiastically and creatively embraced the task of presenting itself in a singularly appropriate manner.

Skilful use is made of its limited building, every opportunity taken to accentuate its performance in landscaping, while litter and general neatness received attention as well. At this level, additional points are not easily come by and careful attention to all aspects of its presentation is recommended to its energetic and successful committee and the community at large.

### **SECOND ADJUDICATION (08/08/00)**

Ballymurn was a very pleasant place to visit in early August, all due thanks to this energetic Committee. It is a pity to have to make some negative remarks, but it is a fact that there had been considerable weed growth in several places such as outside the Credit Union, the Ballykeele Gates and in some private entrances, and there was some (minor) litter. It should certainly be possible in a small community for residents to watch and rectify. That having been said, heartiest congratulations on your continuing achievement at the head of the county.