

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	35
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	23	25
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	8
TOTAL MARK	300	214	217

Ballymore Eustace, Co. Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ballymore Eustace is welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition. It is many years since this adjudicator has visited Ballymore Eustace and was pleasantly surprised by the wonderful developments that have taken place. The village enjoys a magnificent sylvan setting on the banks of the river Liffey with a rural hinterland. The entrance from the Kilcullen road is particularly appealing with the bridge and the church closing off the vista and this stretch of road lined both sides with single storey dwellings. This is spoiled to a certain extent with the wirescape. It is hoped that you will be successful in the not too distant future at having this problem sorted out. Thank you for your completed application. It is very important to submit a copy or a summary of your plan each year and to highlight what has been achieved in the year of entry and what is planned for the next two to three years. It is difficult to progress in the competition otherwise. Don't be disheartened by the loss in marks this year, these can be regained by providing us with a plan and by improving the standard of litter control.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The built environment of Ballymore Eustace is quite charming. Its many terraces of single storey dwellings are complemented beautifully by two storey properties at intervals. The physical layout of the village is attractive and there is a good sense of a central place. It would be a good idea to signpost the river walk from the village centre and at its access points.

LANDSCAPING

There are some very nice landscaped areas around the village. The corner beside the Thatched Pub and Restaurant is most appealing in both design and maintenance. There are many stretches of footpath which are sufficiently wide to plant trees. Trees do not have to be very large and would dwarf the single storey terraces. There is a list of trees available which grow no more than about twenty feet which you might like to consider for the village centre. Seek professional help if this option is to be considered. Some consideration might be given to planting the perimeter fencing of the sports grounds together with the perimeter fencing at McDonaghs for visual amenity and greater enclosure.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The river is a fine natural amenity to have and the riverside walk is a valuable development, however it could be taken a stage further by making it wheelchair accessible. If there are plans afoot to install features such as seating, lighting

etc. let us have these for next year's competition. Wildflower displays on approach roads were most appealing.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was not quite up to standard on adjudication day, particularly on the amenity feature in the centre of the village, this was unfortunate given this excellent visual amenity development. The small stream here needs to be cleaned, in addition to litter, there was a lot of algae growth.

TIDINESS

There is an overall ambience of tidiness throughout Ballymore Eustace. Ask residents to be vigilant regarding their curtilage areas.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential developments are nicely developed, in particular the one in the cul-de-sac beside the church and Hillcrest. A number of village centre residential properties need to be painted or cleaned, perhaps a co-ordinated colour scheme might be organised to encourage people to paint their properties. Ensure that new housing developments complement the existing residential stock of the village.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The wirescape is visually obtrusive in the village, particularly in the environs of the church where it spoils an otherwise visually appealing entrance to Ballymore Eustace. Well done on the attractive new lamp-standards and, of course, new stretches of footpath and litter bins. Carparking spaces in the village centre are well marked out and carparking was quite orderly.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The general impression of Ballymore Eustace is one of a quiet rural village with much to offer the resident, visitor and travelling public. Keep working on the litter problem.