

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	36
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	31	31
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	218	214

Castlebellingham - Kilsaran, Co. Louth

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Castlebellingham - Kilsaran is welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed application and, particularly for the details of the problems, challenges and opportunities facing you over the coming years. We appreciate that difficulties caused by the village being located, until recently, on a very busy thoroughfare, i.e. the Dublin-Belfast road. The opportunities, (now that traffic has been relocated to the bypass motorway), are tremendous. We do appreciate that a lot of the work is beyond the scope of the committee and admire your determination to act as a catalyst to exploit these opportunities and to oversee the proper planning and development of the area. We agree with your approach of identifying both long term infrastructural improvements and short term, stand alone, improvements as well as the maintenance of enhancing existing features, well done! We wish you well with your plan to publish a social and historical record of the area, spanning the last fifty years. We also wish you well in the implementation of your new village renewal report.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Well done on the number of premises that have been repainted for this year. Heaneys Lounge Bar and Confectionery shop is presented to a very high standard. The thatched cottage is beautifully presented. There is plenty of scope to upgrade the presentation of the green corrugated hut across the road. No doubt there are plans for its refurbishment or redevelopment. The Garda Station looks well, particularly in respect of its rose bed to its roadside edge. The Parlour Inn, White's Pharmacy and other buildings are well presented also.

LANDSCAPING

Shrubberies and trees are maturing well and enhancing their environment. Some of the roadside raised shrub beds at the Kilsaran end of the village are not thriving and need to be replanted. Some need weeding also. Kerbed green areas between Kilsaran and Castlebellingham could have been more neatly trimmed on adjudication day, they were a little overgrown. The boundary fencing to the Lakeland Dairies plant should be landscaped for attractiveness and greater visual enclosure. The village green with its semi-mature trees and the area around the Widows Alms Houses and the Cross is beautifully presented, well done!

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Well done on the wildflower garden at Stabannon. It is interesting to note the area around Seabank and the river

Glide being designated as an area of scientific interest with ecological, botanical, zoological, ornithological and geological significance, as well as being a protected viewing point in the county development plan. Your description of wildlife along Miss Anne's Lane is most enticing. Perhaps the committee could find a way of sharing this wildlife heritage with the local community and the travelling public.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control in both villages is quite good. Your litter management activities are successful. Do give us details, they can earn you extra marks.

TIDINESS

Weed growth around the entrance to Bellingham Castle should be removed or eliminated. No doubt the undeveloped site across from White's Pharmacy is earmarked for development soon. Weed growth along kerbs out by the Health Centre are a problem under this heading also.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The green area at St. Mary's Villas looks very well as does St. Oliver's Park. Residential properties out the Clogher Head road from Castlebellingham are impressive, both in their presentation and their design. It is anticipated that new residential developments will be presented to a similar standard.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The southern entrance to both villages at Kilsaran looks well with its nicely landscaped green area. No doubt this entrance will be much improved with the completion of the residential development at Mayne Way. At present construction work here and the road surface gives an untidy appearance. The old water pump at the top of the Annagasson road will look well when it is refurbished. Both the Dromiskin and Tallanstown road signs need to be realigned and re-erected. Verges on the Tallanstown road look well. Entrances to the villages from approach roads are enhanced by the view of the respective churches. The new footpath out the Annagasson road is a welcome safety feature.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Castlebellingham-Kilsaran enjoys a high level of commitment from the community. During adjudication people were out cutting grass, scuffing kerbs and other work. Both villages looked really well.