

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALBRIGGAN**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	24	23
Landscaping	40	24	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	22	22
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	188	184

Balbriggan, Co. Dublin

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

Thank you for your application form and details of your future plans, it is very important to have goals and objectives to strive for when a town is constantly changing. It would be nice to see some more tangible support and funding from commercial properties and local businesses, Balbriggan is a large town and one that is growing rapidly so all assistance is welcome – everyone will benefit from improvements. Have you considered running garden competitions like in other towns, or perhaps getting businesses to sponsor certain developments, eg. welcome signs? The newsletter is a good initiative; it will serve to educate existing and new residents regarding their neighbourhood. Your interest in conserving local heritage is admirable.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is a wide mixture of buildings in Balbriggan, some older some newer, some well maintained and some rather neglected. Your efforts and educating with regard to the maintenance of the streetscape are commendable. The National Irish Bank, Balbriggan Credit Union, SuperValu strip of shops, Bracken Court Hotel and the train station all looked well and the particular efforts made by Ennis's and Eriu were noted. There are some lovely buildings surrounding St. George's Square eg. Carnegie Library. However, the yellow building beside the redbrick Town Commissioners needs attention. It is unfortunate that the rundown Ivory Coast pub and neighbouring sites have such a prominent position on the main street as they are a real eyesore for the town and have been for a while now – it would be nice to see them redeveloped with new frontages, in line with the character of the street. The recently painted Goldsmith's jewellers looked well and the planters and benches in front of the Combined Clubs are welcome – it would be nice in the future to see the frontage of the building here upgraded, with a more attractive method of displaying the local signs and advertisements. The Medical Centre on the corner of Clonard Street is badly in need of repainting. The public toilets down by the beach were well painted and in good condition.

LANDSCAPING

St. George's Square, flanked on all sides by nice old buildings, along with the area down by the Bracken River, are wonderful examples of effective landscaping which greatly enhance an area and which can be enjoyed by the residents of the town. The colourful planting at the entrance to the town was also noted. Your plans for hanging baskets and planters will serve very well in brightening up the streetscape, but it is also important to concentrate efforts on lasting projects such as the planting of appropriate trees around the town.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Balbriggan has some wonderful natural amenities and opportunities for the development of wildlife, located as it is by the coast. The beach looked well on the day of adjudication, the north area by the Martello Tower has some lovely open green spaces and pathways which are well maintained. With the tide in, the harbour looked very well, as did the area around the

Bracken River. The neighbouring beach is a lovely amenity which is enjoyed by many, your efforts to maintain it are very noteworthy – the benches and pathways here are very nice. Your plans to introduce signage relating to the local seal population and the introduction of a Slí na Sláinte route are wonderful ideas and we look forward to seeing development of this area of the competition in coming years.

LITTER CONTROL

Although the main street was relatively litter free on the day of adjudication, there are some black spots which need attention around Balbriggan. Litter tends to collect around the building works, eg. at Westbrook, and there was quite a bit strewn along the roads of the housing estate leading down to the north beach. Pinewood Green itself was clean and tidy, but there was considerable litter by the kerbsides of the housing estate. Both beaches looked well, the many bins to be seen there no doubt has assisted in this regard.

TIDINESS

With so much development going on around Balbriggan, there will be inevitable untidiness in certain spots. Graffiti could be found in a few locations and it was a shame to see a bike and trolleys in the Bracken River. Kerb control and weed maintenance on the main street itself was quite good, but be more vigilant in housing estates. Buildings needing repainting make the streetscape look untidy. The area surrounding the new housing development, Clonard Rise, is badly in need of attention as the grasses and weeds here are becoming extremely overgrown. The train station and car park looked well, there was just a bit of building rubble located in the corner.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are some lovely residential areas throughout Balbriggan with beautiful gardens. Hampton Cove has an attractive stone sign and landscaping at the entrance and there are some beautiful houses down by the seafront with very well maintained wide open spaces - the recently planted trees were noted here, aswell as in Ashfield estate. Fancourt Heights would benefit from a new stone name sign as the current one detracts from a nice and tidy residential area. Litter control is generally good throughout, but be vigilant about kerb maintenance in housing estates and in residential areas such as along Clonard Street. Tara Cove is a nice established estate, just be careful that flower planting at the entrance doesn't completely hide the name sign.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There are a number of approach roads into Balbriggan, it will be nice to see the erection of some welcome signs to serve as a kind of boundary around the town, particularly as it grows and develops outwards. Some attention is required to the approach roads and back lanes from a weeding viewpoint, open spaces seemed to be generally well maintained.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Balbriggan is a large town which will be growing rapidly over next number of years. Your committee's efforts and proposed plans to date are commendable and I would hope to see more support given to your committee in the future from incoming residents and businesses alike. Balbriggan has a great many advantages and undeveloped potential,

situated as it is on the seafront and we look forward to seeing them maximised. Keep up the good work!