

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYBOUGHAL**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-2002

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2002 | Mark Awarded 2001 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 35 | 34 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 26 | 26 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 31 | 30 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 21 | 21 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 32 | 31 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 17 | 17 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 25 | 24 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 25 | 24 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 220 | 215 |

Ballyboughal, Co. Dublin

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

Thank you for your completed application form, map and three year plan for Ballyboughal. The committee is clearly very active and the results to date have been very commendable. You have the right approach to improving Ballyboughal - it is worthwhile to take time to assess what needs to be done and how it can be done and to think long term in addressing projects. By involving as many local businesses, residents and interested parties as possible they become interested in the future of their village. A development plan provides you with methods and motivation to get work done, and with a means by which to assess work in the future. The great efforts you have put into acknowledging and promoting the heritage of the village is very noteworthy.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Ballyboughal is a lovely little village, with a nice selection of buildings and some lovely houses. Ballyboughal Church again looked very well – although the gates of the field next door still need attention. The attractive thatched cottage on the main street adds to the traditional look and feel of the village, but the wall of the building next door would still benefit from repainting. The wall to the left of the supermarket needs repainting and the rusty railings in front of the overgrown field are overall rather unsightly. The school grounds were in excellent condition, with some nice planters in front to brighten it up. I noted that there is an application for planning permission to erect a new building and would hope that any new building would be in keeping with the general look and feel of the village. It was a shame to see the building and grounds of Nightowl Security in a rather neglected condition – there were weeds evident at the entrance on the left hand side and at the base of the building walls. The walls themselves need repainting and the flower boxes on the exterior surrounding walls looked rather neglected and overgrown. O'Connor's Pub looked well, although no name sign was evident. Surfacing of roads throughout the main village was very good.

LANDSCAPING

There was some nice landscaping and attractive gardens evident throughout Ballyboughal – I am sure your garden competition contributes to this high standard. The planting of appropriate trees throughout the village is to be commended and should be continued in the future. Memorial Park is a lovely centrepiece for the village, along with the riverside areas opposite. The landscaping here is lovely and the lighting up of the cross further enhances the spot – the bench however has become rather weathered and needs repainting. Although the village green has some nice tree planting and is surrounded

by attractive gardens boasting plenty of flowers in bloom, the green itself does need something extra in order to transform it into a feature of the village – perhaps some landscaping on the green could be considered in addition to a couple of benches which would provide people with a means to enjoy it more. It was good to see the young trees planted along by the gates of the GAA field.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The riverside area is very pleasant, it is good to see such efforts put into retaining and encouraging wildlife in a rural village as it can so easily be ignored and destroyed. It is hard now to imagine how this area was prior to being restored. The extension of the walkway here will be a welcome initiative and the bench provides a pleasant respite from the nearby traffic.

LITTER CONTROL

Your attention to the issue of litter control in past years is most certainly paying off, as there was little to be seen on the day of adjudication. The Anti – Litter initiative in schools is a very good idea as the education of future generations is integral to the maintenance of a clean and tidy village, and one in which residents have pride.

TIDINESS

Efforts in litter control and the organisation of the gardens competition contribute greatly to the appearance of Ballyboughal as a tidy and neat village. Kerb control is good and weeds are minimal. As mentioned above, the area to the left of the supermarket does however look unsightly and detracts from an otherwise tidy village. The location and positioning of the recycling facilities, whilst clean and well signposted, are still questionable from a safety viewpoint, situated as they are on a corner of a busy road.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residential areas of Ballyboughal, in estates and along the main street, are particularly attractive and create a wonderful impression of the village as a whole – it shows that residents have pride in their homes and village. Ballyboughal Square is again worthy of a mention with its beautiful gardens, mature trees and lovely landscaping at the entrance – however, take care not to let any plantings hide the name sign and watch for litter at the back of the cul de sac. Riverside Estate looked well, as did the new Barley Hill estate, despite building works going on there.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There are a number of entrances into Ballyboughal, from Naul, Ballough, Oldtown etc and they all appeared to be well maintained and litter free, with some nice roadsides and verges. The stone boxes improve the name signs to the village enormously. Tree planting and your ideas to introduce some wildflowers along the approach roads are worth

pursuing. It is important to create the right impression of your village before you reach the main street and it is good to see consideration given to this in Ballyboughal. I noted that the area surrounding the 1798 memorial cross was also well maintained, despite being one kilometre out of the village centre.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Your efforts have paid off to date in Ballyboughal. As well as maintaining a neat and tidy village, your concentration on rallying together the residents and local businesses is to be commended, as by creating a sense of spirit and pride in your village is the key to long-term success. Well done on your extra efforts in supplementing work carried out by the County Council and good luck with your future plans.