

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 13-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	30	31
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>218</b>

## **Castlebellingham-Kilsaran, County Louth**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH**

This village has really taken on a life of its own since the removal of the traffic. It was wonderfully quiet and provides a pleasant existence for its inhabitants. A lot of plans and work throughout the villages was evident – well done.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There are a great number of historic buildings in the village and these are displayed well. St. Marys Church and graveyard are well kept. The mature planting around the Crowing Cock and the School really hold their own in a year when the damp weather has not helped the flowering annuals. The entrance to the Castle and the historic area around the Church looked well. Heaveys in the main street displayed some nice sign writing. J Byrnes has a fine traditional shopfront – it is a pity that many of these are being lost around the country. Foleys displays wonderful thatch and makes a nice stopping off point for both visitors and villagers alike. Can any use be found for the old grain store as it is a fine building and should not be allowed to fall into disrepair? Consideration should be given to the replacement of some of the plastic signage over some of the shops when the time comes to replace them. The Forge Filling Station has a history – the forge area itself would look better painted a more traditional black rather than bright blue.

### **LANDSCAPING**

There are fine trees within the village and this really creates a wonderful atmosphere. The stand of trees at the village green helps to sustain the village atmosphere. Annual colour is provided in places though as mentioned before this has not been a good year for them. An exception to this though is at St. Mary's Villas which really looked very well. Some of the seating at the green and picnic tables on the Clogher Head road required repair.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENTIES**

It is wonderful to have such an important environment closeby. Seabank is a wonderful area and management rather than any development is required here. The area beside the River Glyde looked well though there were a few pieces of litter strewn through the planting. The judges looked for the walk around by Miss Annes Lane though were not sure of its location, a discrete sign which would not detract from the ambience would help to show the way.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litterbins were well in evidence throughout the villages, however, more often than not there was litter around the bin. Some of the litterbins were full e.g. outside the shop in

Kilsaran and at St. Olivers Park. There was also a scattering of litter along the main road at Kilsaran. Greater effort is required in this category.

## **TIDINESS**

The scattering of litter did detract from the tidiness of the village. A number of hedges also required cutting though both the length of the village and the poor weather have probably made maintenance quite difficult. The centre of Castlebellingham and the housing areas were tidy.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Both St. Mary's Villas and St. Olivers Park looked well on the day of judging and sported some fine landscaping. – well done to all concerned. Beechgrove on the Clogher Head Road is a fine enclave of houses and looked very well. The adjudicators look forward to the completion of the council houses and the new houses on the Annagassan Road. The Alm houses are a wonderful part of the village – some of these houses need some maintenance – it is important to ensure that this part of our history is well kept for future generations to appreciate as well.

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

The Dublin approach road is a fine approach and the picnic area is neatly cut back. The Stabannon approach was being cut on the day of adjudication. The Annagassan road requires resurfacing though the post rail fence and trees further out make a nice lead in. The Dromiskin Road was reasonable. Do ensure that signs are kept clean. The Dundalk Road was fine and the Clogher Head Road was well cut back and had a neat approach enhanced by some well maintained residences.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Castlebellinham-Kilsaran was well presented. It is a pleasant village though a long area to keep maintained. The village renewal plan is an important document to follow. The committee has made great effort and the judges look forward to the implementation of the projects.