

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballymore Eustace**

Ref: **502**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **221**

Category: **B**

Date: **17/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	22
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	221	219

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your submission that included a village map. However as previously noted, your submission should have included a brief long term plan (5 years) with a schedule of work completed. The plan will help you identify what developments are required and it gives the committee a focus. The schedule enables the committee to benchmark your progress over the duration of the plan.

The Built Environment:

Ballymore Eustace is a tranquil and historic village which traces its history back to Danish invasions over a millennium ago. The village fabric consists of both 19th & 20th vernacular buildings which are very well presented and in good condition, with the exception of a number of derelict properties. The village also features the ruins of a 15th century Franciscan monastery and a 10th century round tower. If possible, the committee should devote some attention to the rundown church and its adjoining graveyard on the outskirts of the village.

Landscaping:

The River Liffey is the integral landscape feature of the town. Considerable work has been achieved in this area which has enhanced the village's attractiveness. The streetscape displays a wonderful collection of window boxes and hanging baskets which complement each other and the village's

architecture.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The river offers considerable opportunity to develop a wildlife or nature trail. Unfortunately, I did not see any notice or information boards which might illustrate the wildlife in this area. Perhaps the committee might consider involving the children from the local national school to conduct an audit of the wildlife in the area.

Litter Control:

Litter management has improved from last year with only small scatterings of litter around the village. Litter picking days/nights are obviously working. However, the water feature in the central square contained quite a lot of litter.

Tidiness:

As noted previously, the village is generally neat and tidy. However weed maintenance continues to be an issue for the committee. On adjudication day, it was noticed that a lot of weeds had been sprayed with weed killer, however the dead weeds had not been removed. The unsightly hut behind the church should be removed.

Residential Areas:

The housing in the village is excellent. The properties are attractive and in condition. The residential areas surrounding the village are in very good condition; good work has evidently been carried out over the past year. The houses are bright, well presented and attractive. Large open areas are provided. However weed management in some estates needs some attention.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Many of the approach roads boast traditional stone walls, however for the most part they are hidden by scrub and weeds. Weed management is lacking throughout the village and the approach roads. A number of the speed limit signs and directional signs should be upgraded and/or cleaned. However overall the village is very decorative and visually pleasing.

General Impression:

The village is a very attractive and pleasant town to visit. The streetscape is particularly attractive. The riverwalk is a great amenity for the village. Such work is undoubtedly attributable to the hard work of the Tidy Towns Group and local community. I wish the new committee best and look forward to seeing their work next summer.