

# Tidy Towns Competition 2013

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballymore Eustace** Ref: **357**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **290**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **03/07/2013**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2013</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	38	39
The Built Environment	50	37	38
Landscaping	50	39	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	36	37
Litter Control	50	35	36
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	10	11
Tidiness	30	17	17
Residential Areas	40	32	32
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32	32
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>290</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Ballymore Eustace is welcomed to the TidyTowns Competition for 2013. Thank you for your entry, map and copy of your new three year plan and supporting documentation which was very helpful to the adjudicator. Your group of six people as per photograph (looking very happy together with a core of volunteers) are working well with Kildare County Council, Fas and other relevant agencies that supply you with support and assistance. You communicate well with the community through newspapers and media. Try using social media, texting and email as it will save you time. The local businesses and community play a necessary part in the committees work and their support and sponsorship is a vital ingredient to your success. Thank you for your positive feedback on the competition and the importance of the TidyTowns competition to the village. Increasing membership to the committee can be a difficult task with many groups, but once continuous support from volunteers and the community is on-going the group will succeed. Wishing you well with your calendar of events and in particular the forthcoming gathering, a reunion of old school pupils is wished success.

### The Built Environment:

The Built Environment of the village is made up of a mix of old and new buildings all blending well to make an attractive streetscape. Your work on unoccupied buildings has made the streetscape neat and tidy and much more presentable. Market square is an important part of the town structure featuring a nice water feature and is well landscaped. St. Johns Church of Ireland and graveyard looked well. The Thatch Restaurant with nice window boxes looked bright and welcoming. Other pleasant buildings included the Village Store, Health Centre and the Credit Union. The Church and Montessori School beside were well presented. The Parish Centre another important facility for the community together with the School, all was well landscaped, neat and tidy. The village pump which is an important feature of most towns and villages also adds splendour to the streetscape.

### Landscaping:

The Landscaping throughout the village at Market Square with the water feature and landscaping of the Boat at the Liffey Bridge looked superb. The Kilcullen Naas Road has a nice green area with pleasant bedding on the corner; wild flowers in this area were also admired. Barrack Street is a particularly nice street with planting and trees. The many window boxes and hanging baskets, the permanent and summer bedding plants which are part of the village landscape were noted and admired. Looking at the photographs submitted with your entry the village looks very colourful during Autumn/Winter. This type of planting is encouraged by the TidyTowns

together with the planting of trees and hedging. Well done to the winner of the best small garden in your competition which is situated at St. Brigids Park.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The walk along the river is a lovely amenity for the community. Entering the walk from Assumpta Terrace the adjudicator had a pleasurable walk along the river enjoying the nature of the river and the surrounds. The proposed new wildlife interpretive signage for the river walk would add greatly to this lovely amenity. The wildflowers were also noted as was the wildlife on the river. This is also an excellent facility for Scoil Mhuire and do include the schools in any future heritage or nature trails been developed.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter is an on-going problem and hard to combat. Creating awareness in the community and working with the schools is the right approach. Conducting clean-ups in spring which include the community and school are important and also regular litter picks during the summer gets everyone involved. Some groups have an "Adopt a road" with volunteers responsible for that road and it is working well. The 'clean-up after your dog' signs were also noted. On day of adjudication very little litter was noticed, with just a small amount in the square. Well done on your work in this category.

### **Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:**

Well done to the school on their achievements in the Green Schools Initiative. The community are working closely with the school in reducing waste and this can help create awareness on the whole issue of waste. The results of the survey should indicate areas where waste could be reduced. The Tidy Towns handbook offers useful information in this area. Food is one of the areas where waste could be reduced. Resource management in the areas of water, energy and transport can bring savings to the community. Continue the work you are doing in this category concentrating on the top of the pyramid and look at ways of reducing.

### **Tidiness:**

Some area of untidiness was noticed, nothing too major. Weed growth at kerbs and car park gives an untidy look. In the square there was a sliding door which needs painting. Across from Barrack Street railing or barrier needs painting, also 50km sign needs attention. The bottle banks were reasonably tidy. The work at Ball Alley entrance and Old Mill piers was noted. Well done also on work at Assumpta Terrace, paling and hedging looks neat and tidy. Road surfaces on the Baltinglass Road and the Church Road were uneven.

### **Residential Areas:**

The many areas of housing visited were admired. Liffey Heights /Liffey Court were all well maintained as was Assumpta Terrace which was well presented. There were some lovely houses with nice window boxes and hanging baskets such as Hillcrest. Barrack Street had lovely well maintained houses with nice landscaping. Rose Cottage and the house with the blue door looked well. There was a lovely mix of single storey and two storey houses all adding their own uniqueness to the streetscape of the village. Well done to all the residents for their work in this category, it shows they have pride in the village.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

As stated under tidiness there are some uneven road surfaces. The resurfacing of Main Street was noted as was the new footpath and pedestrian lights near the school. Approach roads were well presented with neat grass verges. Kilkullen/Naas Road had some nice bedding and wildflowers. Nameplate signs for the village need to be put in place on all roads into the village.

### **General Impression:**

Ballymore Eustace was a pleasure to visit and has the potential to progress further in the competition. Thank you for participating and you are wished continued success.