

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CALVERSTOWN**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 20-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	26
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	27	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	27	28
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	186	177

Calverstown, Co. Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your detailed form and map which were helpful to the adjudicators during the course of adjudication. There appears to be very good support throughout the village in giving a good presentation. Thank you also for your three year development plan. It is very encouraging to see the amount of money you have generated under your fund raising; this is a further indication of good support. Try to look at all categories of the competition, in this try to develop the heritage of the area also.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Every town in Ireland is different - each has its own unique history, topography, buildings and even use of building materials - but the most important village in Ireland is your own. Much of the overall impression of any village is dictated by its buildings. Each building is unique in its own way and collectively these buildings contribute to the unique character of the village. The best approach is for a good mix of commercial and residential buildings enhanced by sympathetic landscaping of open spaces and appropriate use of building materials. In considering the main aspects of buildings, there are two factors to be kept in mind; one is the quality of the individual structure, i.e., its presentation and materials used; and, secondly, is the building in its overall context. Insensitive changes to individual buildings can destroy the overall character of the street. Buildings on corners, or at the end of streets assume greater civic design importance because of their location. Where such buildings are modified insensitively, or allowed to fall into disrepair, it can have serious visual implications. The Post Office is a very attractive building. It is good to see that Calverstown Cottage has been completed. Try to rebuild the wall outside near the stream.

LANDSCAPING

Calverstown was looking well this year with the village green looking fantastic on the day of adjudication. The pump area was also very well presented. A lovely planting area was noted on the Carlow approach road; as well as on the Kilcullen approach road, well done. The area by the well on the Kilcullen road was also very good. Tree planting of Poplars were noted at the rear of Lee Drive. Nice planting was also noted by the stream. Overall, a very good presentation this year; congratulations on the effort.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Conserving nature is a new venture for many towns and can appear daunting at first. The adjudicators recognise that environmental programmes can take time to get up and running and even longer to assess their success. This section of the report requires an involvement of all groups, including schools, in the village. The emphasis is on the conservation and

enhancement of wildlife habitats and the environment. Woodlands, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, open spaces, graveyards and walls are important habitats. The committee needs to identify the habitats in their area and then determine the appropriate actions to conserve and enhance these habitats. Guidelines in the Tidy Towns book offer other suggestions as to the type of initiatives you might undertake. Is there a local wildlife expert, or a member of the community with experience in this area, that your committee can draw on? In preparing an environmental programme for the village, there should be a year-round participation in environmental protection and promotion involving all members of the community and providing access for all. The next step is to identify what habitats are in your area - are there woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, or other habitats such as urban spaces, cemeteries, walls etc. Prepare a survey and map, showing the areas of wildlife importance and areas of future importance, e.g. school grounds and gardens, derelict sites etc. Other steps involved in the preparation of the environmental programme for Calverstown would include identification of the flora and fauna in the area; preparation of a wildlife management plan as part of the area development plan, and other possibilities include conservation projects, wildlife gardens, areas of conservation, access, tree planting, information areas etc. These must be carried out in sympathy with the local landscape and must not be overwhelming visually, or environmentally. Congratulations on the tree planting undertaken to date. It was noted in several areas including at the rear of the estate. The stream is also an important feature.

LITTER CONTROL

There was a very good presentation throughout the village this year, well done. Litter control was quite good. However, litter was noted in the stream, and around the patio area, which was somewhat disappointing; as this is a feature of the village. Litter was also noted outside the new wall opposite Hickey's Lounge. Try to maintain vigilance in this, school children could be involved, for example, as litter cadets. Litter was also noted at the entrance to Lee Drive.

TIDINESS

It would be nice to see the grassed area to the rear of Lee Drive improved. A broken seat and litter was noted at the rear of this park also. Kerbing and resurfacing was needed. Kerbing throughout the village, in time, would also help improve the appearance. Also, try to remove the mounds of gravel as they take from the overall appearance. Otherwise, there is, generally, a very tidy appearance throughout the village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Good efforts were noted with premises on the Kilcullen approach road. The new residential development (name?) was very good, with excellent individual efforts noted and nice cobble locking creating a very tidy appearance. The tree planting and the new monument are also nice features. Lee Drive was very well presented with beautiful flower beds noted to the front. It was also

nice to see significant tree planting having taken place in the grounds of Calverstown Cottage. Try to watch the rear of Lee Drive.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the approach road from Athy, grass verges and hedges had been cut back; well done. While tree planting was noted, some of the trees are dead and should be replaced. Try also to rebuild the wall on the right hand side - this is noted as part of the FAS project. A large new wall was noted by Calverstown Cottage. Approaching from the Carlow road, verges again had been neatly cut back, with a nice presentation on the right hand side. From Narraghmore, verges had been cut back, although they would have benefited from a second cutting at the time of adjudication. The Kilcullen road was very neat and tidy, but the grass was slightly long at the sign. A very good presentation was noted on the left hand side with tree planting and flowers. Overall, a good presentation this year, well done.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The general impression is that good efforts are evident throughout the village, both in the case of individual premises and in open spaces. The major negative factor this year was the presence of litter, ; ry to work on this for next year.