

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	29
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	24	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>195</b>

## **Calverstown, County Kildare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the completed entry that provides a significant amount of detail and the submission to Celt for funding of the environmental plan. Perhaps the map in the entry form should be used in the development as there is a lot of work in the preparation of this document. There is a need to highlight future works and the emphasis of the centre, given the development of housing areas on the Kilcullen road concern, must be given to the possible need of future paths which will change the appearance of the grass kerbs and maintenance in this area.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Currently there is a significant level of change occurring in the village areas and the existing structures are very fine. The stream and kiosk area is very clean, the post office looked very well and it is a pleasant centre piece to the village. The stone wall on the Kilcullen road should be of great benefit to the entry into the village. The character of the village will be changing in the next couple of years given the amount of associated development and it is important to establish an approach that can get a cohesive unity to all the separate developments. The wildlife category may allow a creative investigation into this aspect.

### **LANDSCAPING**

At present there is a very horticultural approach to many of the spaces. Everything is very tidy entry roads are very tidy, flower baskets are very good, good scale to them, good colour and the village green has a very strong impact on the character of the village setting. Management of long term issues such as the loosening of tree ties has also been carried out. One would stress some concern as to the landscaping carried out beside the stream as this is a very hard image and the hanging baskets definitely seem to be unconnected with the stream environment. Some softening of plantings in this area that are more connected with the river and ground space may be more appropriate for presenting the stream.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

At present the stream is hidden by quite a high wall. This may be a regulation requirement, however, the water space is hidden visually. The general character contrasts with the type of stream environment one would see in the countryside. There is a very pleasant entry drive to the village and this should be maintained as it reinforces the

rural setting and theme. One must be complimented on the planting of the significant number of trees in one of the adjoining fields and hopefully the experiment with wild flowers will benefit the abundance of colour that is often associated with these areas. Hopefully through these type of experiments there will be further decisions made on the overall landscape treatment for the village.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Calverstown is essentially very small to have any problems with litter control and as such the standard is very good. All spaces were very tidy including the stream.

## **TIDINESS**

The village is very presentable and is very dependent upon the level of maintenance given to the landscape spaces. Perhaps a looser arrangement of plants and investment into larger scale trees would give a much more settled appearance to some of the harder spaces at the village centre and may even reduce the maintenance associated with the highly coloured flower beds. All areas are very presentable.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

It is commendable to see local details being reused on new buildings such as copying the details from the forge on some of the newer walls near Priory Village. The new stone wall has a strong theme of connecting the different residential areas and will prove effective when finished. There should be better results in this area when most of these works are completed. Hopefully there will be lots of plantings to seek for that integrated approach with the rural landscape. All existing residential areas are very tidy.

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

Clean, well manicured nature strips within the village and good presentation of hedged and grassed areas. The entry to the village from the national road has a very pleasant character complete with the Queen Anne's Lace setting off a very pleasant white colour.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

A very good effort has been made on this village and given the very few elements, they have been very effectively managed. Perhaps the stream could be better seen from the roads and the central green space better connected with adjoining spaces on the other sides of the boundary roads. There is a need for stronger integration with the rural countryside and this should be addressed in the development plan.