

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Calverstown**

Ref: **373**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **230**

Category: **B**

Date: **12/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	38
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	17
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	230	224

Overall Developmental Approach:

The 15-member committee represents a very strong commitment to achieving good progress in the village. The map, plans of the green and information on the entry form were helpful at adjudication. The comprehensive plan submitted gives a good understanding of the work achieved and the planned work.. Great work has been achieved in the past few years and good credit is due for this.

The Built Environment:

Calverstown has accommodated the combination of new housing developments with the original village. The original village crossroads, housing and greens are the core of the village and the village still retains this aspect. Grove villa, Coach House buildings and Forge are indeed very special buildings and they are well presented. There is a great amount of stone wall in the village and it is welcome to see so many new stone walls being used at the new housing estates – these blend in well and are important forming the character of the village. Hickeys premises is very well presented the stone name sign on the green is very fitting. It would be nice if the wall at the stream could be constructed in stone or stone faced.

Landscaping:

The green is a beautifully cared for landscape feature in the village and gives a lovely impression to

the entire village. The flowerbeds and tree and shrub borders give all year benefit. Kerbing and paving has helped the green greatly as have the lamp standards. The entrances to the many housing estates are very well planted with good green spaces and tree planting. As these trees grow they will make a great impact on the estates and tie them in to the surrounding landscape very well. The large copper beech tree and large pines at the village cross illustrate the importance of mature tree in the environment. Replanting of such species is important where space allows. The gardens along by the top of the green are beautiful and contribute greatly to the overall landscape of the village. The planting around the village name signs on entry to the village look attractive.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Hopefully the wildlife area will be a possibility for the future. The roadside verges outside the village and surrounding areas can make an interesting study and projects involving schools are always worthwhile in this regard. Local knowledge can also help in pinpointing areas around the village that are significant for wildlife observation.

Litter Control:

There is very good litter control in and around the village and the voluntary efforts are to be commended for this. Constant vigilance is needed to keep litter at bay particularly along the roadsides on approach roads.

Tidiness:

The village has a very tidy appearance. While overhead cables still exist in the main part of the village all the services are underground in the new estates, which is a major advantage. Lobbying for removal of overhead cables is worthwhile.

Residential Areas:

The standard of the housing estates is very high – with both good surrounds and attention to individual homes in the estates. The large greens and verges need a good deal of maintenance to keep them to a high standard. Individual houses along the approach roads and in the village are cared for well and these contribute very well to the overall appearance of the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces appear to have been newly tarmacaded and they are in very good condition with the exception of the area around the cross roads of the village – hopefully this will be upgraded soon. The new kerbing and footpaths look well and are important now with all the housing estates. The lack of footpaths at the cross roads is worrying where most traffic is converging. Very quickly on leaving the village the rural hedgerows appear and it is important to keep the naturalness of these hedges and verges for their natural environmental value

General Impression:

Calverstown is a very well cared for village with very high standards. The care of the green is particularly notable. A great amount of work has been put into the upkeep of the housing estates and the general village area.

Second Round Adjudication:

Calverstown now has more of the appearance of a suburban village rather than a village in the older sense on account of the majority of the houses being comparatively recent. There is much new development, all of it exceptionally well

kept; the varying designs of the new estates make an interesting contrast – this adjudicator particularly admired Rosewood because its rooflines and dormers seem to take their inspiration from older existing buildings, and because of the subtle use of low-key colour. The absence of such traditional village features as a church or a shop surely creates an unfortunate motor dependency. As mentioned by the first adjudicator, the road surfaces in the vicinity of Hickey's public house need immediate attention. It is hoped that you will be able to find new initiatives under Wild Life. (When drawing up your map, please place 'north' at the top of the page as otherwise it confuses with the Ordnance Survey maps which adjudicators use to find their way from town to town! – a small point which of course does not come into the marking.) Congratulations on your substantial increase in marks as recommend by the first adjudicator and heartily endorsed by the second.