

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Narraghmore**

Ref: **568**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **229**

Category: **B**

Date: **08/08/2005**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2005 | Mark Awarded 2004 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 34 | 34 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 28 | 28 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 32 | 31 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 17 | 18 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 35 | 35 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 17 | 17 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 25 | 23 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 35 | 36 |
| General Impression | 10 | 6 | 6 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 229 | 228 |

Overall Developmental Approach:

The plan submitted with the entry form was helpful as was the sketch of the village. The plan is a good guide to the work needed each year – perhaps a more detailed and itemised plan may be needed to cope with the very changed style of the village and increased population. A recruitment drive among the housing estates would also be a good idea to raise the membership number above three.

The Built Environment:

The built structure of the village has changed dramatically over the past few years and this has now to be accommodated in the new style village. The village core or centre has the original buildings clustered around the square – these are well painted and in good order. The village square at presents seems to lack impact and the small feature around the well appears out of scale. The lamp standard stands solitary. Perhaps a redesigned village square occupying a bigger space for a central feature – maybe triangular and including both the lamp and the pump would be worth considering.

Landscaping:

The planting features on the approach roads are attractive. Individual gardens are contributing well to the overall landscape by their care and attention the. Long grass verges on approaches to the

village are well kept and give a pleasant entry to the village. The housing estates have generally attractive entrances and open greens. Trees have been planted at the open spaces on the housing estates. The entrance to Lipstown Manor needs planting by the borders at the entrance piers. The Oak Park estate has an attractive entry with the shrub borders to either side. The two large strategically placed trees – Lime and Chestnut give great character to the village and show the importance that even one or two large growing trees can have – perhaps a chestnut tree could be included in a redesigned village square.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The hedgerows around the village are important wildlife sanctuaries. It would be welcome if a wildlife project were started in the village. With the influx of so many new suburban style houses it is important that an appreciation of the natural environment is kept in mind especially for the young people. It is unfortunate that your wildlife-designated place was purchased.

Litter Control:

There is a good standard of litter control in and around the village. Constant vigilance is needed to keep litter freedom. And it good to see the prominence of this in the plan each year

Tidiness:

Because of the disruption caused by all the building sites - this is having an effect on the general tidiness of the village and the damage to verges and roadsides follows. The placing of the cables underground is a major advantage and helps greatly. The grass verges along the roadsides are neatly kept and good credit is due for this.

Residential Areas:

The housing estates are in good condition and people are caring for their homes and gardens very well. As time goes by and gardens are developed, the housing estates will take on more character. A few years of tree growth will also help to give some cover and submerge the building mass a little. It is good to have some housing right at the village centre – this will help to build a good village centre community and is welcome. The older original houses along the approach roads are well cared for and contribute well to the original fabric of the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Good road surfaces and foot paths have been put in place generally – however there is need to finish off this work as there are a number of broken or damaged road surfaces. The lack of footpaths at strategic places is hazardous. The approach roads are well tended and merge from the more distant roadside verge natural vegetation into a more cared for well mown and tree lined zone on approach to the village.

General Impression:

Narraghmore has undergone tremendous change in recent years and as all the work is completed a renewal of the village centre is needed. It is important to create an identity for the village as so many other villages have similar type new estates.

Second Round Adjudication:

You mention in your Development Plan that your chief concern this year is 'to get Narraghmore back to some normality'. This is an admirable endeavour. Are you recruiting recently arrived residents to your committee? as has been done with great

success in several other villages where there has been an influx of new families. The first adjudicator mentioned the need to provide footpaths and repair roads damaged during house building; the surface of the car part at Kelly's also needs attention. It seems from reading your documentation that your relations with the Local Authority leave much to be desired. Possibly you have made the wrong approach: yet it has to be remembered that the council is there to serve the public, and you should take all possible steps to ensure that your voice is distinctly heard and – more to the point – answered. There did not appear to be any signposts at all in Narraghmore – for example, pointing to Calverstown, Kilmeade, etc – and this should also be pursued. Unnecessary litter – though indeed all litter is unnecessary! – was seen at the estate on the Calverstown road.