

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Calverstown** Ref: **360**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **254**
Category: **B** Date(s): **24/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	254

Overall Development Approach:

Calverstown is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which includes your plan and baseline study for the controlled development of Calverstown. The committee is of a substantial size and no doubt there are extra hands on board to help the committee undertake its Tidy Towns work. We note from your application your liaison with both Kildare County Council and Lawson Construction, well done.

The Built Environment:

It is good to note your ongoing discussions with the owners of private properties to deal with any issues arising in relation to these. With only one business premises noted at the time of adjudication i.e. Hickeys and what appeared to be a second due to open in the short term future there is not only a lack of opportunities for earning additional points under this heading but also a lack of problems. The provision of a map of the area indicating features of interest on an all-weather vandal-proof information panel to be located in the central green is an excellent initiative and no doubt will be accompanied by finger post signage on routes to various destinations. Well done on the maintenance and repair of existing stone walls to ensure these are retained as a feature of the area, it is good to note that you salvage stones from walls to be demolished.

Landscaping:

Your landscaped village green is a most attractive feature, roadside grass verges are being neatly maintained and feature a variety of trees and shrubs; our thanks is due to those responsible for planting and general maintenance. We acknowledge your plan for the landscaping of the name plate on the Narraghmore Road and the launch of the 'Adopt a Flowerbed' programme. The proposed improvements to the corner opposite

Hickey's pub which is an important village focal point is welcome also.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It is good to note your awareness of the way to generate an increase in wildlife habitats and the clustering of plants to achieve this. No doubt you are also aware of the appropriate time of the year in which to trim hedges in order not to disturb nesting birds. Now that the bird box initiative has come to fruition perhaps school children might be encouraged to do a species count and publish the results of these. The wildlife habitats of the two dedicated wildlife areas, one on the Narraghmore Road and one on the Ballyshannon Road, should be identified and published on the proposed information panel in the village centre. It is good to note your plan to choose berried trees and shrubs in order to encourage wildlife.

Litter Control:

Your weekly litter picking activity appears to be most effective as the village was litter free at the time of adjudication, well done. We note also your participation in the Annual Spring Clean organised by An Taisce. Good luck with the installation of notices along approach roads regarding maintaining the village litter free and also with the acquisition of additional bins.

Waste Minimisation:

It is good to note that the committee is taking a proactive approach to the provision of recycling facilities within Calverstown, with the village growing very fast these are quite necessary. Your plan to segregate waste collected from clean ups is acknowledged as is your goal of finding an appropriate site to dispose of clippings and grass cuttings in a composting facility. We anticipate the provision of high quality purpose built facilities for screening standard bottle banks. The best of these seen so far by the adjudicator was noted in the village of Kill, Co. Kildare. Most importantly your goal to minimise the volume of waste produced by the community is admirable.

Tidiness:

The village had an overall appearance of tidiness with weed control being quite strong in addition to litter control. A few soft drinks bottles were noted in the village centre on the corner site opposite Hickeys however this did not present a very big problem.

Residential Areas:

Your residential areas are characterised by expansive stretches of green open space and excellent landscaping, all are presented to the highest of standards and were admired. We acknowledge future planned development of residential areas for Calverstown and anticipate that the committee will take a proactive approach assimilating new residents not only into the life of the community but also on board the Tidy Towns effort. We wish you well with the installation of name stones at entrances to all estates both existing and new. It might also be a good idea to place a map of residential areas within Calverstown on the display board in the village centre with associated finger post signage.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads to the village were presented to a good standard and name plates are clean, legible and smartly presented; the name stone was especially admired. Good luck with the provision of a cobble locked footpath by Grove Villa from Rose Cottage and the provision of heritage style lamp standards.

General Impression:

Calverstown is a beautiful village that is characterised by wonderful, well maintained and designed landscaped areas. We look forward to the provision of an information panel detailing walking routes / amenities and working with bodies such as Sli na Slainte and others to identify and install these.