

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Narraghmore** Ref: **304**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **240**
Category: **B** Date(s): **24/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	240

Overall Development Approach:

Narraghmore is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission and plan which made interesting reading. Well done on your liaison with Kildare County Council and the local schools, also on the hosting of public meetings to communicate Tidy Towns events. Ongoing development in the village is a problem for the Tidy Towns committee to contend with and this is acknowledged by the adjudicator. Well done on your proactive approach regarding the development of Narraghmore, particularly at the planning application stage. We wish you every success in your future endeavours and particularly in implementing your plan. Narraghmore enjoys a wonderful setting with scenic views of the surrounding countryside; the village is ideally situated for amenity walks. No finger posts or name plates were noted by the adjudicator, this will have to be rectified at some stage in the future in order to make further progress. However we realise there is little the committee can do in the face of continuous development but are hopeful for the future.

The Built Environment:

The pub (with no name) is reasonably well presented as are both the Post Office and the Butcher's premises. We note your plans to be accomplished by the end of 2007 and wish you well in this respect. Hopefully the new housing units and shop units in the village centre will be of an appropriate design and standard to complement the existing village core.

Landscaping:

Well done on the renovation of the waste area in Lipstown Lower, cleaned reseeded and planted with both trees and wildflowers. This is a fine initiative. We note your plan for the Village Green incorporating the pump

and for the further planting of trees along verges of approach roads.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Do ensure that all future plant species, whether trees or shrubs, are native as this will help generate a wider variety of wildlife habitats. It is important at this stage that a wildlife audit be undertaken in order to identify wildlife habitats present so that appropriate steps may be taken to protect them in the event of the further development of Narraghmore. The information can also be used to raise local awareness of wildlife and indeed to develop features such as wildlife trails and other initiatives. Perhaps this audit could be undertaken with students and younger school children.

Litter Control:

Litter control is excellent in your lovely village, well done. Commendations are due to those people who regularly pick up litter a few times a week. Hopefully the proposed new bins will arrive before the end of this year. Don't forget that collected litter should be segregated for recycling.

Waste Minimisation:

Well done on the segregation of litter with bottles and cans being brought to the bottle bank, keep us informed as to the outcome of locating a bottle bank in the village centre. Have you considered composting of green waste, local authorities run seminars on this from time to time and some of the Tidy Towns committee could attend and subsequently encourage householders to engage in this practice. The overall goal under this heading is to reduce the amount of waste generated, with this in mind a waste audit might be undertaken and strategies devised for waste minimisation.

Tidiness:

There are new problems under this heading, as always with development sites there are related issues of untidiness however these tend to disappear at the termination of construction work. Hopefully the ramps promised for approach roads will be installed before the end of this year.

Residential Areas:

Congratulations to those residents who maintain their gardens, boundary walls and roadside areas to boundary walls to a high standard of presentation. Hopefully footpaths will be constructed from existing and new residential areas to the village centre and it is good to note that funds are available for this initiative. It is a good idea to encourage residents to become involved in the Tidy Towns initiative. One approach might be to organise a Best Kept Garden competition.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Car parking in the village centre is quite orderly. The centre appears to be wirescape free and heritage lamp standards are an attractive feature. One name stone was partially hidden by overgrowth and it is suggested that gold lettering be used to highlight the name. Perhaps also a finger post for Calvertown could be installed in Narraghmore. We wish you well on the enhancement of road verges and also as noted above on the construction of footpaths.

General Impression:

Narraghmore is a delightful village with an overall tidy and pleasant appearance, the committee and the community in general are right to be concerned regarding its future development and should do everything possible to ensure that all planned development enhances the physical and social life of the village.