

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Calverstown** Ref: **360**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **261**
Category: **B** Date(s): **24/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	32
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	261

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you to Calverstown for your entry to TidyTowns 2008-07-29 You have a large committee for a small village. This shows great involvement. Your broader community is also prepared to get involved. You are also involved with your local authority at all levels as well as with FAS.

It is a pity that the school near you is not yet involved. However, we are sure that in time they may be able to assist, especially if they become involved with the Green Flag programme.

Thank you for your plan 2007-2010. Your photographs for the front cover are very well chosen! Your clear O.S. map was of help. Your Map referencing system is a little unclear when it comes to the verbal explanations. We also read your 2007 Report.

We are not informed of your consultation process in relation to the drawing up of your plan. This is important.

Newsletters and newspaper notes are used to communicate.

We see that you have been chosen as a location for a Village Design Statement. We will be looking forward to hearing more about this in 2009

The Built Environment:

You are aware of the unique character of the buildings in your village

The centre of the village has a lovely group of farm buildings, facing the Ballyshannon Road approach. These are very well presented, as are the stone walls, pillars and gates. It is a lovely complex. Beside this is a lovely traditional dormer stone house, also in pristine condition, with good rails and gate in white, clean, and well maintained. The window hood mouldings are particularly pleasing and original. The hanging baskets add a splash of colour. You are lucky to have such well maintained properties which also respect their architectural heritage in such a prominent location. We note that you were involved with the reroofing of these buildings at Grove Villa. This is an excellent outcome.

Hickey's bar is a fine building, and is painted well in pleasing colours. The original name lettering is in scale with the building. This is also in a central location. Costcutters is a new building, which still requires a settling in period, but it is in keeping with the village centre.

The sculpture "tread softly" is a lovely piece of work located in the village green, and gives a distinct memory of Calverstown in one's mind as 'the village with the nice sculpture'. Its setting with the tree backdrop is also beautiful.

Use of Irish is commended throughout especially the use of the older script as on your boulder name sign.

Landscaping:

Calverstown is in a very rural setting, and benefits from this. The approach road from Kilgowan is a veritable forest of mature trees, which sets a tone that is not disappointing later on arrival at the village. You have added to the green effect in your plantings on the approach from Narraghmore, and elsewhere. Your shrubbery plantings in the Green are excellent and very natural. The flowers in the stone bed surrounding the village sign on the Kilcullen Road are bright and cheerful. The stone-surrounded large bed in the Green area is also beautiful. All landscaped areas are lovingly cared for. Perhaps next year you might send us some photographs of the daffodils in bloom on the approach roads. They must be beautiful! We also note you intend to further improve the pump area. Well done on your proposal for 2009 re 'Adopt a Flowerbed', and good luck with it
!

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your streamside location can provide additional wildlife to your village. You have so much greenery and planting in your midst that you are blessed with resources in this area. We are glad to see that you are concentrating on the chosen two areas shown on your map for the present. You mention your enclosed newsletter here. The erection of bat boxes is good. Well done on your grant to estates re this category. This is a novel approach. You have lots of plans for the future here, which will assist you in increasing your marks in this area. The provision of a survey and management plan contributes hugely to the marks in this section. Findings made public on information panels would add to the enjoyment of your village for local and visitors alike, and would serve good educational purposes. Your approach to appropriate maintenance and small scale habitats is to be encouraged.

Litter Control:

Litter control on adjudication day was excellent. Well done to the FAS workers and to yourselves. You might consider organising a Litter Seminar with the Litter Warden of your local authority, and prepare a Litter Plan. We hope that your new bins will be architecturally pleasing and innovative. Talk to your local authority Architect's department in this regard. We also note that you had hoped to have these last year also, so perhaps 2009 will be the year! This adjudicator is not so sure about placing 'do not litter' signs on approach roads. This can lead to signage proliferation. Perhaps other methods are better to get your message across?

Waste Minimisation:

You are promoting recycling where possible. We note that you segregate on clean up days. We hope that you will get a recycling area in due course.

Waste minimisation is about more than not having litter in your street or indeed recycling. You might refer to the Race Against Waste booklet available from the Tidy Towns Unit of the Department of the Environment, Heritage, and Local Government. Consider organising or attending a Waste Minimisation Workshop with your local authority. Perhaps you might prepare a flyer/newsletter on this subject?

Tidiness:

Road signs in general are good. They are mostly in good condition. In general the village and its surroundings

were tidy.

Footpaths and verges as well as stone walls and hedgerows were in general, well cared for, and the village centre buildings, housing and Green were very good.

There was no graffiti in evidence. This is good.

The entire bridge/stream area is untidy looking and 'bitty'. Yes you are correct to try to have removed the sign at the Forge beside the stream. It is out of scale and character with the area. The paving at this space needs weeding, and the internal walls are in need of an overall coordinated treatment. The overall look is really not much improved by an odd planter. And you are running into difficulty with placing the planters there due to legal issues. The entire area needs an overhaul. The paths and verges throughout the village were generally well weeded.

Residential Areas:

The residences of the village are very well maintained in general.

Priory Village is well landscaped with attractive houses. The green area is well kept. There is very attractive planting at the entrance. Existing hedges have been retained. There is also a nice stone sign with insert.

Burrow Manor has very well kept green spaces, and nice houses. The Irish sign "Na Pollain" was noted. The footpaths were generally good and verges cut.

Rosewood was tidy with some semi-mature trees.

The Crescent and Carrig Glen were excellent with a very well kept green and very good planting. The silver birch at the access to Carrighill is beautiful. The green is undulating with a clover cover. All individual gardens are excellent here. A little weeding is needed along the road near Carrighill.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach from Kilcullen is well landscaped with old stone walls retained and with extra planting. This is a very good approach. The footpaths were looking well tended.

The Kilgowan approach has lovely mature trees on this twisting approach. The boundary treatments in the village area are good. The town sign does need replacing because it is obscured behind hedging.

The Narraghmore Road has a good sign. The green railings to slow pedestrian access to road were looking good, as was a nice green gate at approximately the speed limit. Just beyond a section of green railing a dangerous looking stretch of verge with rocks and stones protruding was noted.

The Ballyshannon Road was the least tidy approach. Footpaths are generally not complete in the village centre end and stop short of centre on Kilcullen Road.

General Impression:

Calverstown is a busy community in relation to Tidy Towns, and has made considerable progress. Your plan is your guide. However a lot of what is proposed in your plan has yet to be brought to action. Good luck with all your projects! You are approaching the tasks ahead in an organised manner.