

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Narraghmore** Ref: **304**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **235**
Category: **B** Date(s): **08/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	235

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry form with the useful map. Your small rural village is going through a period of adjustment with a greatly increased number of domestic dwellings while some of the shops and stores have withdrawn. The village itself is on pleasant, high ground and the new houses being built are very well developed. Most of houses have been built during the last 10 years. Trees on either side are maturing very well and give a pleasant sense of permanence to the area. The village name plates are carved on fine stone. For best effect do cut the grass back from the foreground as some of them have become partially obscured. The core of the village, at the Post Office, has been very well presented and that area is attractive.

The Built Environment:

The two new build shops one hopes will have tenants shortly while the Post Office looked well. We admired the fine old building with its atmospheric hood mouldings on windows and Romanesque-like type doorway painted attractively in white and grey. Sadly the curb stones at its corner have been knocked over taking from the entire presentation.

Landscaping:

We welcomed the picnic table in front of the new build shops. St. Lawrence's GAA Grounds were very well presented. The old seat has become worn out and should be replaced or the timbers at least. We were struck by the format of the Old Road with the deep dikes on either side, a historic format which typically suggest an early 18th century construction dating back to the Grand Jury days. Well done on the rockery which closes the view at the T junction.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The surrounding countryside will help in the encouragement of bird life and wildlife. For best effect a location may be found within the new housing estates where a small piece of ground can be set aside as a natural or native habitat. Do insure that the planting of shrubs and bushes are restricted to native, berry bearing types in order to create the all important food chain which will encourage bird life to return and prosper. Perhaps there is a local bird or wildlife enthusiast who could help in providing a suitable program.

Litter Control:

We welcomed the presence of the litter bin at Lipstown Upper and also at the village centre. Litter management was of a high order on the day of adjudication.

Waste Minimisation:

We infer from your word, composting, under the waste minimisation category that this desirable practice has been introduced in Narraghmore. We would reiterate the recommendations that members of your committee contact the environment department of the Kildare County Council with the view to staging a simple work-shop or evening forum on waste minimisation practices. It is in everybody's interest to reduce to the minimum the extent of waste being carted to landfill sites.

Tidiness:

The promised ramps to act as traffic calming measures have yet to appear and we wish your effort to secure them success during this year. The new houses have not been provided with dished curb-stones at their avenues. As a result they have had to resort to a number of solutions, concrete, tarmac, or just a plank each placed outside the line of the curb. All of these are untidy and it should be a planning condition that appropriately lowered or dished curbs stones are provided to new houses to maintain the necessary curb line throughout the estate. Remove the spoil from the side of the path at the new Oak Park Estate.

Residential Areas:

There are some pleasant new houses on Lipstown Upper and these have been well presented. A number of new houses are still for sale, we admire greatly the Sweet Pea Cottage. Oak Park is a very fine new development and the black and white cottage at the top of the hill on Wood Road certainly caught the eye. The Lipstown Manor development looks very well where the communal grassed area was neatly cut and very well presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The 50kph and 80kph signs were neat, clean and verges were well cut except on the road by Oak Park. Here the 50kph signs has been obscured by vegetation and were not readable until you are fully upon them. At the T junction the Yield sign is damaged and needs repainting. We admired the village name plates carved in stone. The road was quite soiled in a number of locations and trucks have badly damaged the verges all along in front of the new buildings. The developer should be called upon to make good this damage when the work is completed.

General Impression:

Its altitude and layout makes Narraghmore a delightful village which will need skilled handling to ensure that the village core becomes more established and remains attractive to the growing number of residents in the many new houses. It is important that you secure as many allies as possible to agree on the future shape and direction of the village and area. You are urged to produce a simple 3 year rolling programme, discuss it with the various stakeholders within the village and armed with that mandate, then discuss it with the local authority, Kildare County Council.

All involved with this year's entry are warmly thanked, applauded and congratulated for their efforts and wished well in 2009.