

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Calverstown** Ref: **360**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **283**
Category: **B** Date(s): **09/07/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	50	37	38
Landscaping	50	39	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21	21
Litter Control	50	36	37
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	8	9
Tidiness	30	21	22
Residential Areas	40	34	35
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35	35
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	277	283

Overall Development Approach:

Calverstown is welcomed to the 2013 competition. Thank for your entry map and photos of your lovely village. It is good to see that your committee is getting new volunteers to help you drive on the good work in the village. Without commitment from volunteers the Tidy Towns would not happen. Your commitment to the competition is appreciated by the Tidy Towns movement. Your engage well with the County Council and this support is important in achieving your objectives. Involving local children as you do through art competitions gets them involved in the community.

Your committee's communication with the community through newsletter and newspaper is good but your Facebook and email route of communication will save the committee time and paper which is encouraged. It is good to note that your village has benefitted from the competition. The improvements to the village are visible and this encourages more in the community to get involved.

The Built Environment:

The village of Calverstown like most villages has seen an increase in population and housing development. Thankfully this development in your village has complimented the village with housing estates that have blended into the old village streetscape. The village does not have the usual buildings that come under this heading like a Church or a School but has a large amount of houses. Nevertheless, buildings admired included the Forge an important part of the villages history, the Stream Inn on the corner and the shops alongside. This area is the focal point of the village and the green area across with its red pump like a shining light on the green is very attractive. The Sculpture on the Narraghmore road is serenity at its best "Tread softly on the earth". Grove villa with nice hanging baskets and tubs of flowers add splendour to this corner of the village.

Landscaping:

The green area is a nice landscaped area. The large Calverstown stone and troughs each side together the lanterns and red pump are really attractive. The shrubs planted here are herbaceous and give all year round colours. Where shrubs die and there are dead roots of shrubs they should be removed and new ones planted, likewise wooden containers were placed in some of the beds these are better put on their own and repaired if necessary. There is also a lovely bed of begonias in this area. At Lee drive the house on the corner is splendid with the smell of orange blossom and roses floating through the summer air. The village name signs are all nicely planted and give a welcome to the village.

Across from Stream Inn there is a paved area that presently has an empty wooden barrel that looks lonesome. This area could be developed further and would make a nice feature with the stream flowing. The hanging baskets and tubs of flowers throughout the village add a splash of colour.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The situation of the village in a rural setting provides an abundance of hedging, mature tree and stone walls that are natural habitats for wildlife. The use of all year round planting also provides food for birds. Do continue to plant berry shrubs and hedging trees where possible to add to the already existing habit for wildlife. The stream is also an area that could be developed for a nature trail. A survey of the wildlife that is part of the village would be a good project for your group to do. There maybe someone in your local Council that would assist. Bird watch Ireland are also good and of course the local schoolchildren through their school should also be encouraged to take part. The information gathered would make a good information board on display in the village.

Litter Control:

Your policy on litter through your clean up days and your promotion of information on litter control is certainly working. It is good that you also have the help of the Community Employment Scheme in this area. Very little litter was noticed on adjudication day. Well done to your group on their work in this area.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

Your work in this category through the use of composting and water butts is applauded. This is what this category is about. How best the community can reduce the amount of waste produced in the area. A survey identifying the type of waste householders are producing would be beneficial. You could also look at how you could save through resource efficiency in general the areas of water, energy and transport. Another area is reuse of items such as books, clothes and other articles. Groups through this area can raise funds for their projects and reduce on waste as well. All this along with recycling are ways the community can reduce and in return save the community money.

Tidiness:

The village was generally tidy on day of adjudication. Road surfaces at Lee Drive were uneven. Your group should if developers are contactable ask them to remove large signs they look untidy. There was also some weed growth in the pavement across from the Stream Inn.

Residential Areas:

There were many fine residential areas in the village all well landscaped and maintained. They range from bungalows to two storey houses that had avenues of trees lining the entrances. There were also some pleasant play areas. These building developments to the village have added to the streetscape and complimented the many individual houses that existed prior to this era. All housing estates were visited and admired so rather than name any one the adjudicator found all were extremely well presented and a credit to the residents as are all the houses within the village boundary. There were neatly presented gardens, hanging baskets and tubs of flowers all adding greatly to the landscaping of the village. Well done to all concerned.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads into the village were well presented with neat verges and hedging along with mature trees. One cannot visit this lovely village without mentioning and admiring the lovely stone walls that border the village on many of the approach roads. There was just a couple of areas it was felt could be improved; the grass verge in front of paling down from priory village could be neater. Boundary walls in some areas needed attention, in one area across from The Stream Inn. A tub of flowers at the petrol pump would brighten up this area.

General Impression:

The village of Calverstown was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. Your committee are doing good work and with the anticipation of new members joining the group the way forward is positive. You have done good work for this year's competition your village was presented to a high standard. Concentrating around projects under wildlife and Sustainable Waste and Resource Management would help gain more valuable marks in the future. You are wished well in this year's competition and continued success.