

# Tidy Towns Competition 2014

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Calverstown** Ref: **360**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **287**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **26/06/2014**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	44
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	41
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	21
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	36
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>287</b>

### **Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:**

Welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2014 and congratulations on your participation for more than 20 years. We are impressed that your committee has grown from 8 last year to a thriving 15 this year and we note that you have representatives from all residential estates in your community. You receive support from local businesses and we note that Kildare County Council has been especially helpful. Well done on your "Community Get Together Night" which helped raise much needed funding for your projects. The use of Facebook will become more important in the future as a means of communication. Noting that there is no school in Calverstown, we applaud your efforts in the involvement with Crookstown Primary School and your plans to involve other neighbouring schools in the years to come. Many thanks for attaching a map of the area with inset pictures of the projects. We encourage all communities to prepare a three year plan to help them to prioritise projects and to raise funding. Perhaps you would consider that for next year.

### **Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:**

In your community, the built environment comprises mainly residential estates and these are dealt with separately below. McCanns and McParlands both looked well. In pride of place is the central Village Green which is planted and maintained to a very high standard. We admired the lamps with hanging baskets, the planted areas with roses, herbaceous perennials, shrubs and bedding all enhancing the old pump, the name stone and the information board. Trees on the green also looked well. Opposite McCanns, we suggest the use of climbing plants such as ivy to soften the hard appearance of the wall.

### **Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:**

Calverstown has many trees which form the main structural elements in the. We admired these on the village green and in residential estates. In planting new trees it is best to use a single species on a road or street for uniformity as is the case at Carrighill estate entrance road. Also, it is important to ensure that the base of new trees is maintained free of weeds and grass and also flower beds to ensure early establishment and we commend you for adhering to this practice. When trees are established it is important to remove the stakes as the stems can get damaged from the ties or stake. This is a problem in some residential estates mentioned below. Guideline for plant containers is to use them only where planting directly into the ground is not possible as you have done with hanging baskets on heritage lamp posts. The use of permanent planting is encouraged rather than relying on annuals which are more time consuming and in this regard we note that you have a good mix of shrubs and flowering plants in various schemes. The village green is well maintained and we note your plans for more spring flowering bulbs which will herald the season. We advise that you can make use of climbing plants such as ivy to help screen some walls.

### **Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:**

There is a rich natural area surrounding Calvertstown which is supplemented by your landscape efforts and it is important to promote an awareness of the many traits and to map these habitats. Appreciating your local wildlife resources is vital in order to achieve under this category. In this regard researching and raising awareness is more important than 'doing' at the early stages. Biodiversity is under threat globally and sadly Ireland is a part of this trend. Habitats of value include specimen trees, hedgerows, treelines, streams, woodlands and wetlands. List the plants and animals to be found in your natural environment and recognise their significance (native, protected, or alien invasive?). This would be a very useful project for schools.

### **Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:**

This category is becoming more and more important and the available marks are now increased to 50 to highlight the need for communities to address the issues involved in tackling the growing waste mountain that is creating problems of pollution, unwanted land use, and the use of dwindling resources. We note that the Kilcullen waste management facility caters adequately for your needs and there is no need for you to have your own. We note that you segregate waste collected on clean-up days. Have you any information on the amount of material collected and segregated for recycling. It is good that you promote water conservation and composting through your newsletters. Well done on using local stream and rainwater for watering containers and hanging baskets in the village green. There are a number of other measures that your town can take in regard to sustainability. One third of our waste is organic in nature, such as grass clippings. You can avoid collecting mown grass by more frequent cutting and using mulching mowers which shred the clippings and facilitate faster decomposition. Other waste minimisation projects might include working with retailers to cut down on packaging, reminding people to re-use shopping bags, discouraging junk mail, encouraging the re-use of water bottles and coffee mugs at school and at work. In response to an over use of chemicals for weed control, many useful products of the past are no longer available and therefore communities are encouraged to use other means such as hoeing to maintain weeds. In some cases, allowing wildflowers to develop is an acceptable alternative. These activities will highlight the fact that you are focussing on this category and when you develop more projects in the future your marks will increase.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Calvertstown is a very tidy community and you are fortunate to have FAS workers help with maintenance. We commend your efforts in controlling litter and promotion of tidiness in the newsletter and the segregation of waste collected during clean-ups and from litter bins were noted. Near Calvertstown Lawns there is a large dead tree on the roadside which should be removed before it becomes a safety hazard.

### **Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:**

Calvertstown Place is a small estate with nice trees and houses. The trees could do with removal of the lower branches for safety sake. There was no litter and just a few weeds. Deerpark estate has well established trees and grassed areas. Some houses are well maintained. Priory Village has established trees, the grass was cut and there were some kerbside weeds. Low branches here too. The Burrows and Burrow Manor have big open spaces, lovely sward of clover and established trees. Rosewood estate has well planted gardens; the open space was well maintained. Among the Whitebeam trees which dominate this estate, one dead specimen should be removed. No weeds or litter to be seen. The house at the entrance caught our attention with its magnificent display of flowers in the garden. Calvertstown Lawns is a litter free, weed free estate. We admired the attractive sculpture in The Crescent. Cluain Aoibhinn is an estate which has no trees so our advice is to plant some. In the following estates, we advise that the stakes and ties supporting trees be checked and either loosened or removed to prevent them from causing damage to the tree stems. Stakes should not be needed two years after planting. These estates are Calvertstown Place, the Burrows and Burrow Manor, Carrig Glen and Carrick Hill.

### **Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:**

The approaches to Calvertstown look well and from your submission they may look even better in springtime. On the Kilcullen Road approach, the sign was enhanced by the well maintained grass and flowers. Bilingual Finger Post signs were admired in the centre of the village. All roads are in good condition.