

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Calverstown** Ref: **360**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **309**
Category: **B** Date(s): **08/07/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	45	46
Streetscape & Public Places	50	41	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	42	43
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	22	23
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	14	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	64
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	36	38
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	37	38
TOTAL MARK	450	300	309

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Calverstown Baile an Chalbhaigh chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Calverstown is most welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns competition 2018. Thank you for your application. Your submission was very comprehensive and clear and provided plenty of good quality information, including photographs and a map which was most appreciated by the adjudicator. You have a loyal Committee of 8 members who meet regularly, with the additional support of 10 volunteers. In your submission it was wonderful to read about your various and innovative fund-raising activities during the year, your engagement with your local community and your attendance at workshops etc. Also of note are the close relationships you have established with local business, other local groups and Kildare County Council. The inclusion of your newsletter made for enjoyable reading. All of this, together with your active fund-raising activities made for a busy year gone by.

Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

The village of Calverstown has a most attractive streetscape with heritage properties from the Victorian Era well laid out around a central green area at the crossroads. The more recent buildings comprising 'The Stream Inn' and the adjoining Mc Cann's Newsagents are very well presented. The adjudicator particularly liked the wonderful stone walls along the village & newly painted gates. The attractive lamp posts on the green add to the quality of this open space. The traffic railings/barriers provide an important function in relation to traffic safety and were most attractive and looked to be newly painted with a great choice of colour. The piece of sculpture 'Tread Softly on the Earth' by local sculptor Annette Mc Cormack is a beautiful work of art. There is no doubt there is excellent work being done in maintaining the very high standards evident in your beautiful village. Local road signage withstands a lot of wear and tear and can sometimes be overlooked when it comes to maintenance and cleaning. In this regard, the community alert sign would benefit from attention. The capping on the flowerbed at the water pump has fallen into some disrepair and could be repaired. The little stream is an important feature in the centre of the village. However, it is largely hidden from view. Consideration should be given to opening up the stream to public view by removing the existing unsightly wall enclosing the stream. The paved area near the stream is also quite drab and it is suggested that this too be removed and a small waterside garden with seating be developed, which would be of huge benefit to the local community and visitors alike. It is recognised that there may be ownership issues here but the Committee could explore options with Kildare County Council in relation to how this important feature in the village might be brought into public ownership, should this course of action be deemed appropriate.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Calverstown as a small village and has a wonderful sylvan setting and benefits from a well maintained and planted

open space in the village centre, providing an important amenity for local residents and visitor alike. This open space is maintained to a high standard and is a riot of colour and lush foliage. We particularly loved the rose bed which produced a wonderful scent wafting through the warm summer breeze. The flower tubs outside the old post office across from the open space also provided great colour and were painted an attractive green colour. The bin on the open space at the Crescent has seen better days and you may consider replacing it in the not too distant future. Well done on the extensive daffodil plantings carried out in the village which provide a great boost in Spring and remain a feature to be enjoyed year after year. The young walnut growing on the green was particularly admired.

Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:

The information board on the Village Green provided a wonderful insight into the history of Calverstown and examples of flora and fauna found in the area. Your commitment to embracing the Pollinator Friendly Planting Code as highlighted by the Heritage Officer, Kildare County Council, will be of benefit to your environment in the longer term. It is good to read you have made some changes from using annual bedding to perennial pollinator friendly plants in your planting schemes. Your bug hotels were a source of delight and were well crafted. Your village and committee are fortunate to have such dedicated and skilled members. It will be interesting to hear about occupancy rates in these bug hotels.

Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:

Your continued emphasis and support for waste segregation, composting, mulching and use of water butts is commendable. It is good to hear the local school are currently working for their biodiversity flag. It is acknowledged the nearby town of Kilcullen has a large waste management facility available to local residents. This category is one with great potential and we would recommend that you consider how to best to progress with initiatives to enhance the development of sustainable waste & resource management practices. For next year under this category you could consider further initiatives such as a local car-pooling scheme, promoting the use of low carbon vehicles or providing cycling/cycle parking facilities in the village. The greater use of water butts and rainfall storage tanks for the watering of private gardens and flower tubs in the village during the dry Summer period, could also be encouraged. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland website has good information in relation to the development of Better Energy Communities.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The overall impression of Calverstown is of a beautifully presented litter free village. The overall high standard of presentation points to local awareness of litter prevention and this is evidenced by the recent success of your 'Village Clean-up Day' on 16th May. Well done on this event, as it also provides an excellent opportunity for community involvement. It is noted you are fortunate to have a local person employed on a community employment scheme whose dedication and contribution is acknowledged. The availability of well-located litter bins is a benefit. You mention that the stream is regularly checked and this is advisable as on the day of adjudication there were small amounts of litter present here.

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

There are a good many residential streets and housing areas within the environs of the village. The overall standard of these areas is very high, the care, attention and devotion of residents is very apparent with most attractive individual gardens and properties. The pollinator friendly planting at Lee Drive provided a great visual impact. The Crescent estate was particularly well-maintained and the bark mulch placed around the trees gave a tidy appearance. The Burrows estate and Manor were excellently presented with extensive open space areas and attractive tree planting. The entrance to Priory Village was very attractive. The entire estate is well maintained, litter free with a variety of trees planted. It is suggested that attention be given to tree ties and stakes. Carrighill, is a very well-maintained housing scheme with a beautiful entrance dominated by birch trees. Cluain Aoibhinn Estate with its lovely street lamps and attractive tree planting was also well-liked. Carrig Glen is endowed with well-manicured open spaces and tree planting. Well done on the tree planting here- it is good to see the different ages and types of trees present. Be vigilant with tree ties and stakes. Rosewood Estate and the smaller Demesne Estate are well maintained and attractive housing areas. The tree planting provided an abundance of colour. Calverstown Lawns also has a fine well-maintained open space.

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

It is noted that the hedges and verges on all approaches to the village are cut and trimmed and tidily kept as far as the village signs and beyond the signs the natural ditch and hedgerow vegetation is allowed to express itself. This is a good policy and ensures the general safety of all road users on approach roads, whilst protecting existing wildlife habitats. The signs on the approaches to the village were clean and the stone surround planting beds provide a good first impression. The approach roads were maintained to a very high standard. It would be good to achieve success in the provision of a footpath to Ballyshannon School, keep up your efforts in relation to this.

Concluding Remarks:

The Calverstown Tidy Towns Committee and volunteers are deserving of great praise for what has been achieved in the village this year. Some extra effort on your lower performing categories for next year could yield good results.

