Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Calverstown - Baile an Chalbhaigh**	Ref:	**360**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**373**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**20/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	52	55
Streetscape & Public Places	80	46	48
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	49	51
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	29	31
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	22	24
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	69	71
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	46	48
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	43	45
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**356**	**373**

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

Fáilte go Comórtas Bailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2026. Go raibh maith agaibh as bhur n-iarratas a chur isteach. Maith sibh as an obair atá déanta agaibh in bhur gceantar go dtí seo - guíonn muid gach rath oraibh in bhur dtionscadail amach anseo.

Thank you to Calverstown Action Network (Tidy Towns) for your submission and participation in the 2026 National Tidy Towns Competition.
With a population of 652, Calverstown Action Network (Tidy Towns) have entered into Category B Village population between 201 and 1000. The population of the village has remained relatively static since the 2011 census.

Given the size of your village, your current active committee of 10 members and 12 volunteers who work regularly on your projects is a very significant contribution from the community. The fact that you hold your regular meetings in the homes of the committee members is indeed a testament to your commitment to Calverstown.

You are also supported by other social groups including residents and local businesses, including the “Your Stop” shop in helping keep your village in good condition. Thank you also to the CE worker who has also made a great contribution during the year.

Tidy Towns have made every effort to include the younger members of the community in your activities and especially your family fun days. It is important for the future of the community for younger members to be involved in clean ups and associated environmental activities as much as possible.

Without exception all of the entrants from Kildare, including Calverstown, identified the support and assistance of Kildare County Council - the high standard achieved by the county’s Tidy Towns family both in the past and in 2026 are a testament to the ongoing commitment and energy of the County Council.

Your presentation of your methods of communication, including social media and the more traditional methods of posters, local newspapers, and meetings covers all possibilities and ensures that you are keeping your community and stakeholders up to date.

You have been pro-active and successful in securing funding and grants to carry out your projects.

In particular you have persevered in your efforts to secure the vacant site in the centre of the village opposite the

shop, for development as a community space to serve the needs of the village. This project remains a work in progress and you have suffered some delays arising from external circumstances beyond your control but the project remains viable. Keep your eye on the prize.

You have been a participant in the TidyTowns Competition for over 25 years, we wish you every success in your efforts to deliver a community facility for Calverstown.

Finally sympathy to the families and your community on losing a number of your founding members during the year, a proud legacy has been put in place and it is a fitting tribute that their work is being carried on.

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

The village of Calverstown is located on the crossroads of the L8008 and L6090 secondary roads, between the R418 and R448 national routes. Calverstown is a small rural village set in the flat plains of the Kildare countryside, with the surrounding landscape with established hedgerows enclosing fields. A small stream flows through the village.
The village is a typical rural village with a combination of ribbon development and a number of small housing estates clustered around the hub of the village.
Grove Villa is the outstanding architectural heritage building of the village originally built in the 1880's and modified and extended since then, it is a fine and unique private residence incorporating a number of architectural styles, and is set back from the main crossroads fronted by a low stone wall with railings on top.
The landmark Stream Inn is prominently situated at the corner of the crossroads and currently is not in use. It is critical for the village that this building remains occupied and does not become derelict. The thumbnail photo included in your 2026 submission shows an image of the proposed development of the site which would be a great addition to the village if realised.
The local shop is set in a 2-storey terrace adjacent to the Stream Inn on the Carrighill Upper Road and the buildings are generally in good condition and well maintained. The shop fronts onto an unattractive blank wall where cars park. There is also a car-park behind the store.
Calverstown has good street furniture including the water pump, which could probably be re-painted, the very good information board next to the green, and female figure sculpture. This adjudicator spotted an out-of-season Christmas decoration left behind in one of the trees in the green. Hopefully it will be recycled when appropriate.
The Tidy Towns work has concentrated on replacement and renewal of village and traffic signs in the village. There is also a new modern bus shelter in place, complete with bench and new surrounding paving and groundworks.
Along with the green spaces, the stone walls are also a very attractive feature of the village. A section of stone wall at the rear of Grove Villa has collapsed and needs to be reconstructed.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The various locations throughout Calverstown, particularly the village green, but also the beds at the signs on the approach roads, and the green spaces in the housing estates are very well presented. It was encouraging to see some provision for wild flowers to flourish along some boundaries.
The constant need to water, thin out and weed around is key to the ongoing presentation of your green spaces and landscaping. You have maintained your programme of cuttng back and pruning during the autumn and winter months.
Your tree planting programmes in the Carrig Glen and Barrow Manor estates continue to be monitored and maintained. It is suggested that the stakes and supports to trees and also decorative lighting fittings draped on trees should be inspected regularly so as to ensure that the growing trees are not being damaged.
The adjudicator did not access the sensory garden at Ballyshannon National School but did see the newly planted apple trees alongside the boundary wall and the very attractive wheelbarrow and watering can planters at the entrance door steps, along with what looked like a new gardening shed and water butt. Your photos of the sensory garden and poly tunnel and details of their composting, organic gardening and sustainable planting confirm that this school is serious about it's contribution to the greening of the village.
Thank you for the work in keeping all the green spaces distributed through your town so well maintained and attractive for all.

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

The increased importance of Nature and Biodiversity is recognised in the increased scoring for this category for the 2026 Tidy Towns competition.
As your new project under this heading, you have undertaken to repair and look after the traditional hedgerow damaged when a new estate was developed, allowing the hedgerow to continue to flourish and act as wildlife corridors and habitats for the wide range of insects, birds and wildlife that flourish in your village and surroundings.
Hedgerows Ireland is a great source of information for any group interested in protecting and laying down new hedges. Indeed the All Ireland Hedge Laying Championships will be held in Monasterevin, Co. Kildare in September 2026. It would be interesting to get a progress report and possibly a photo on your hedge repair work next year, possibly with some detail of the technique you followed.
You have also referenced the Wild Orchards project completed in 2020 and which require continued maintenance and which have recently produced good crops for the enjoyment of man and birdlife.
Trees are not only good for nature and provide fruit as you have pointed out in your submission, but also numerous studies have demonstrated that the presence of trees improve people's mental and physical health, so there is a real benefit for the community in looking after your planted trees. The fact that you have are planting native species

of trees is noted - well done.
The areas under the trees have also been part of your reduced mowing programme again providing habitats for wildflowers and pollinators.
You have been proactive in trying to reduce or preferably eliminate the use of herbicide spray throughout, and especially at the wildflower corridors.
The previous adjudicator made favourable comment on the number of bird boxes provided in Calverstown. Please make sure to include the cleaning out of all the empty boxes in your autumn work schedule.
Finally well done to the pupils, teachers and parents of Ballyshannon National School on their participation in the Green Schools and Heritage in Schools programmes. And as we all know the bugs in the bug hotel need to have the right plants available to feed on.

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

The increased importance of Sustainability for all communities is recognised in the increased scoring for this category for the 2026 Tidy Towns competition.
Most groups are very active in encouraging community members to make their area more sustainable by their actions. Changing how we source our energy is one of the most effective actions that we can take. You have noted that the new Calverstown Gate housing development is leading the way for your community in making the transition to renewables both in being designed and built to an NZEB standard and also having solar panels and EV charging points in place - moving toward a carbon free environment. Ballyshannon National School has already installed solar panels and in addition to electricity and heating, the pupils and teachers are monitoring their water use in the school.
Many Tidy Towns communities have linked with the SEAI to become Sustainableergy Communities - this is not just for new developments and there are programmes and incentives in place to help communities in this direction.
Well done to Tidy Towns on moving on from plastic bottles at the annual easter egg hunt, as well as maintaining the Return Bin. It is the nationwide experience that the Return scheme has resulted in a significant reduction in littering of cans and bottles, so your experience is not unique.
From your submission and the scope and number of your actions from recycling clothes collections to mulching grass to putting paths in place so as to promote active travel to sourcing fruit from the orchards to encouraging bus travel you have taken on board last year's adjudicator's advice to document all your projects and it is a very impressive list - there is much to be admired going in sustainable Calverstown.
Your unique and outstanding "tread softly" sculpture in Calverstown is a very good reflection of your communitie's efforts at increased sustainability. Well done.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Calverstown Tidy Towns Committee and the volunteers have made every effort to make sure that their village is tidy and free of litter. The part time CE worker is a great help to have in this regard, and the Council's replacement of bins following the Tidy Towns representations will also help keep the village looking well.
You have noted that through traffic can often be a source of litter but a significant body of research indicates that casual littering is much less likely in a situation where there is no litter in evidence.
Along with many other Tidy Towns groups, you have taken part in the An Taisce National Spring Clean Up initiative to get the year under way and you also have more general clean up days throughout the year. It is good to note that you have held the viz jackets and gloves and rest of the necessary equipment ready for your future lifting. Also please remember that the safety of all is a primary consideration for all Tidy Towns committees and volunteers - please stay visible and please stay safe.
The communication and co-ordination of the Tidy Towns with the residents associations and the school as well as the Council is essential to maintaining your high standards.
On the day of adjudication, there was virtually no evidence of litter, dumping or flytipping in the village or surroundings.
Congratulations on your excellent work.

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

The engagement of the Calverstown Action Network umbrella group with the various residents associations from the estates has led to a good working relationship and this is reflected in the excellent condition of houses, gardens and public spaces in all of the estates seen in the village.
It is acknowledged that it can be difficult to keep pace with the changes and needs of a developing community but it appears that the developers of the new Calverstown Gate estate have maintained the good standards of the earlier developments.
It is a definite advantage for the village in that the estates are of limited scale and there is a pronounced neighbourhood character to the estates and to the village overall. It is also helped by the fact that the estates are mature as is evidenced by the significant tree cover throughout the village.
The residents and community of Calverstown continue to maintain and keep their homes, gardens and streets to a very high level.
Carrigh Glen and The Burrows were typical of the estates visited and most of the homes had very well maintained frontage with colourful gardens, some with flower boxes and hanging baskets. The green spaces and trees in the estates were all in good condition
Finally a word of commendation to the homeowner whose significant "Brigid 1500" cross to the gable wall of the house is certainly an eye-catching decoration, well done.

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

Your work on securing and installing the new signs and the associated planting works on the approach roads is excellent.
The approach roads into Calverstown are overall very clean, with clear signage and markings and well maintained.

The previous adjudicator noted the very fine stone entrance sign and the many stone walls that are a feature of the village and that remains a highlight.

The L6090 tree-lined entry from the R448 is an excellent approach into the village.

The new paving at the bus stop is also an addition.

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Concluding Remarks:

This adjudicator was impressed with the presentation of your town and the work the committee has carried out.

In particular your ongoing and lengthy efforts to secure and properly develop the site in the village for the good of the community is a testament to your energy and commitment.
This very exciting project will definitely improve an already excellent village. And hopefully the Streamstown Inn will come on board as well.

Thank you to all who have made their contribution.

Best wishes for the future.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.