

Calverstown

VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

APRIL 2009



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Section 1: Introduction and Process

1(i) Introduction

What is a Village Design Statement?

The Village Design Statement is a document which is prepared based on the views of the local community, demonstrating how they want their village to develop in the future. It allows local communities to be actively involved in the formulation of design guidance for preserving and enhancing their village and its wider landscape setting.

What is the purpose of the VDS?

This Village Design Statement (VDS) has been commissioned by Kildare County Council for Calverstown.



Figure 1: Community Consultation.

The production of a VDS offers an opportunity for local people to work together and make a positive contribution to the future planning and enhancement of their village and provides an important focus for community development. It is also recognition of local people's knowledge and understanding of the place where they live.

The role of the VDS is to advise how development should be carried out in harmony with the character and quality of the local area. In this way, the special character of the village can be recognised, protected and enhanced for the enjoyment of both the local community and visitors to the area.

The six key aims of a VDS are:

- To enable communities to analyse and define the value of their local environment;
- To act as a tool for accessing the local character of an area;
- To assist the County Council in steering future development to respond to and respect that character;
- To guide smaller changes (permitted develop-

ment);

- To promote the scope for local environmental improvements and support community initiatives;
- To become adopted and used by the Council as a material consideration in planning matters.

How has the VDS been produced?

The VDS has been produced through consultation with the local community in partnership with Kildare County Council.



Figure 2: Discussion at Community Consultation.

The VDS for Calverstown involved the following key stages:

Stage 1: Information Gathering

This stage was undertaken through a site visit and desktop analyses. It involved gathering information and photographing the village in order to identify the village character, settlement pattern, buildings and spaces and roads and traffic.

Stage 2: Community Consultation

An initial community workshop was held in Calverstown on Tuesday the 15th April 2008. There was a good attendance at this workshop and feedback obtained on the day and through subsequent submissions and comments has been fundamental to developing this VDS.

This workshop allowed us to understand the likely desired community outcomes from the VDS process.

Stage 3: Preparation of Draft Village Design Statement

A Draft Village Design Statement was prepared for comment both by the local authority and the local community. A second community workshop was held in October 2008 to gather feedback on the Draft VDS.

Stage 4: Publication of Final Village Design Statement

The final Village Design Statement will incorporate the following elements:

- Achieve consensus with the local community as to the aims and objectives of the VDS;

- ii. Develop design principles for Calverstown, based on the distinctive local character.
- iii. Develop guidelines for incorporating new development within Calverstown that would take account of key issues such as:

- Landmark buildings
- Streetscapes
- Open spaces and recreation areas
- Landmark views and vistas
- Street furniture
- Needs and opinions of the village residents
- Proposed mechanisms and initiatives to ensure the successful delivery of this VDS.

How will the VDS work?

This VDS is not a masterplan of ready made design solutions, and its recommendations should not be viewed as a barrier to modern design. Rather, the document highlights the unique qualities of architectural, historical and natural importance that contribute to the village's character, and provides broad design guidelines to both safeguard its distinctive character and enhance quality of life within the village.

These recommendations should be viewed as a stimulus for encouraging any new development or other proposals to respect and enhance, rather than compete with, the valued character features that define the village. This will require careful consideration of how key elements of the village inter relate with each other, and how they contribute to the character of the village as a whole.

Structure of the VDS

A VDS describes the character of the village and provides broad design guidelines which address the qualities which locals consider worthy of protection or improvement. A VDS will draw particular attention to features such as:

- Village Context
- Village Character and Areas of Note
- Village Settlement Patterns
- Buildings and Spaces
- Roads and Traffic
- Critical Issues
- Design Guidelines

Mechanisms/Initiatives for Implementation



Figure 4: View through Calverstown village.



Figure 3: Achieving consensus at Community Consultation.

Section 2: Village Profile & Character

2(i) Village Profile

Location (refer to Context Map below)

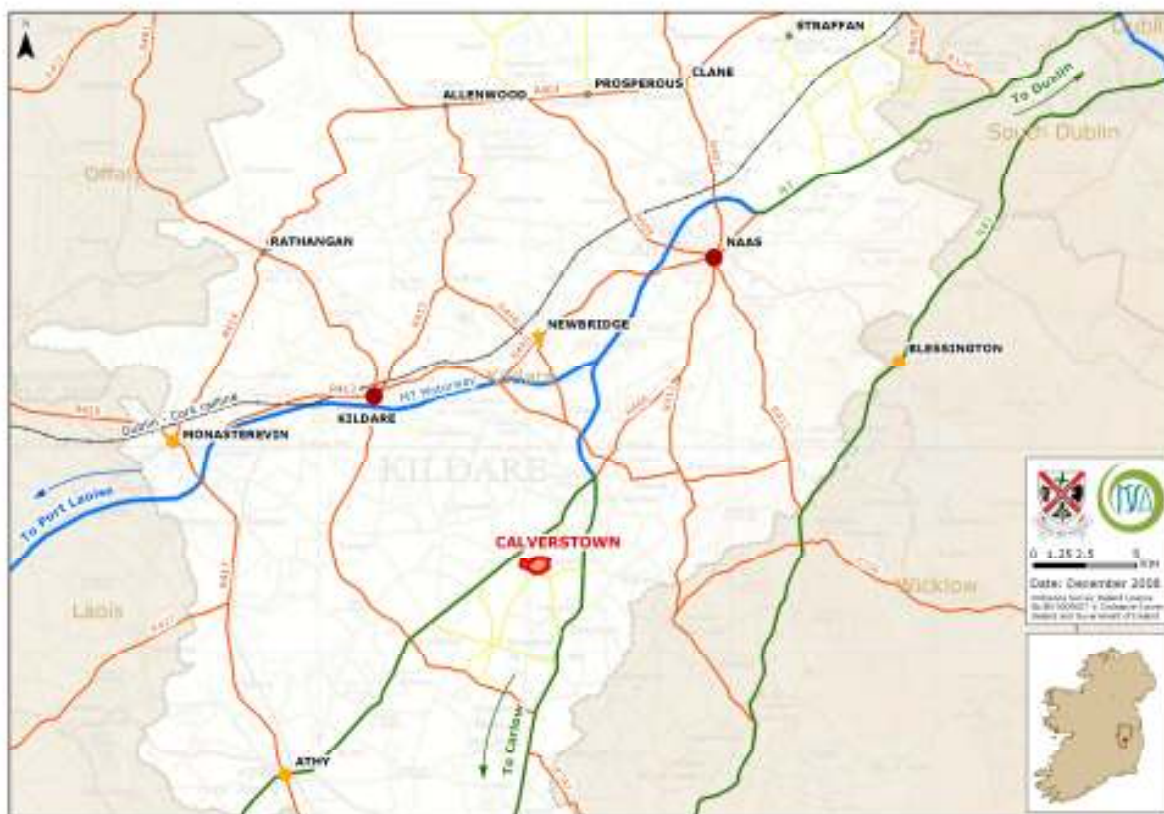
The village of Calverstown is located in the southeast of Kildare, c.6km south of the town of Kilcullen and within a radius of c.16km from the larger towns of Athy, Kildare, Naas and Newbridge. The village centres on a crossroads, which are of secondary road status, connecting to the national routes of the N9 and N78. A stream flows through the village, with another located to the south flowing in a south southwest direction as tributaries of the River Barrow.

Calverstown is a small rural village set in the flat plains of the Kildare countryside. The geology of the area is carboniferous limestone with grey-brown podzolic soils. This results in the surrounding landscape being lowlying, well drained with established hedgerows enclosing fields, lending to tillage and livestock as the predominant agricultural activities in the area.

Population Change

The 2006 Census recorded a population of 650 people in Calverstown. There are no records available from the 2002 Census. The population of the village has increased steadily over the last 10 years with a number of new residential estates having been constructed within the development boundary of the village during this period.

Calverstown Context Map



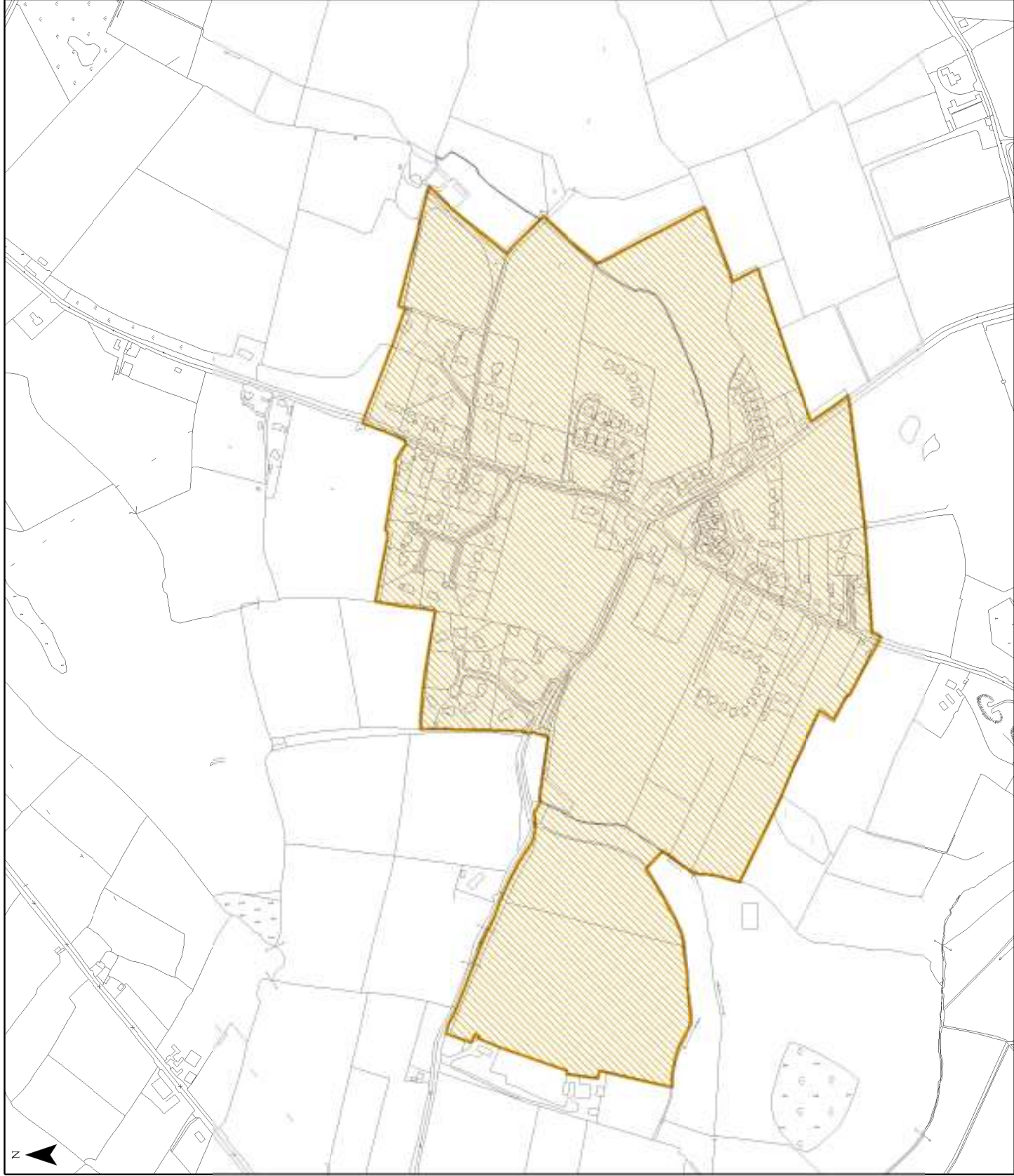
Role of the Village (refer to Settlement Map p6)

Calverstown acts as a service centre for the surrounding rural hinterland. Hickeys Pub is centrally located at the cross roads. A shop with over head commercial units is located beside the pub. Although Calverstown is currently a well established village there are little or no community facilities in the village at present. Its close proximity to two main road arteries has resulted in increasing residential development pressure within the village but additional community, recreation and education facilities have to date remained underdeveloped.

Land Uses

Calverstown village lies within the parish of Davidstown which largely comprises of farmland. The main activity within the surrounding hinterland is predominately tillage and livestock farming, due to the superior quality of the land. The village is centred on a crossroads with two main commercial premises being located here, Hickeys Pub and Matt's Foodmarket, with Ruben Bridal Boutique overhead. At present there is no church, school, pre-school or crèche facilities within the village and only a small amount of land has been given over to recreational facilities for children.

The predominant landuse within the village is for residential purposes. Such development has to a large extent taken place in recent years and is present on all approaches to the village. This development is mainly arranged as suburban housing estates with private entrances from the main road.



SETTLEMENT MAP

CALVERSTOWN

POLICY THEME - CONSOLIDATION

Policy Theme
Boundary

Consolidation:
Existing Village Facilities

*Public House
*Shop

Note: All information carried at the
time of survey (June 2004)



0 50 100 200
M

Date: December 2008

Scale: NTS

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Local Community

A number of organisations are established in Calverstown and are involved in the promotion and enhancement of the village. Most notably is the Tidy Towns Committee, who are an active society focused on improving the village of Calverstown from an environmental aspect and as a place to live. The Tidy Towns Committee has a long term vision for the village and has identified a number of projects such as paving, resurfacing works, underground cabling and lighting which will benefit the village and improve its visual appearance.

Other societies within the village are activity based and include the Golf Society, horse riding and the local GAA. The local GAA club is St Laurences which is located five miles from the village. The club also has a new community complex which offers all facilities for GAA as well as additional facilities such as a hall rented for indoor soccer, basketball etc. Functions are also hosted in the hall.



Figure 5: Village Green.

Roads and Traffic

Calverstown is located at a crossroads of four local roads which connect the N78 to the N9. Traffic is generally not a problem in the village. The road surface at the cross roads and on the approach roads from the N78 have been somewhat degraded due to heavy construction traffic in recent years. Traffic calming is in place throughout the village. No clear parking areas are delineated outside the pub and shop with cars parking in a haphazard manner and in some cases obstructing through traffic.

Calverstown is a rural village located within the low-lying landscape of Kildare. The original plan of the village was formed by a small grouping of buildings at a crossroads which formed a hamlet. This hamlet most likely developed as a result of the extensive Calverstown Demesne which is located to the immediate south of the village.

Four features of note have been identified within the village, these include

- Hickey's pub and foodstore
- Village green
- Calverstown Forge and stream
- New residential development

Hickeys Pub and Foodstore

Hickeys pub located at the crossroads acts as a central point within the village. Although not included in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) survey or the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) for Kildare this building acts a landmark feature and is worthy of note.

The building is a corner sited three-bay two-storey pub, built c.1860, with a shopfront to groundfloor and a single-storey extension to the north and an entrance porch to the east elevation. The building fronts directly onto the street with petrol pumps located to the east.

Matt's foodstore located adjacent to Hickeys pub, is a modern, and purposely built premises. This building also has commercial units above, one of which is Ruben's Bridal Boutique. At present this represents the commercial core of the village.

Village Green

The village green is located at the crossroads within the centre of the village and would appear to date to the early nineteenth century. Acting as a focal point, it has been attractively planted and landscaped. Additional features include a finely carved limestone namestone, village pump and pedestrian walkway with heritage lighting.

Calverstown Forge and Stream

Located directly across the road from the village green is a paved seating area beside a stream. This area has been developed as a seating area within the village core and complements the green area as open recreational space within the village.

Another feature of note is the carved limestone statue situated at 'The Crescent' Housing estate. Depicting a carved woman with raised foot the plaque to the side reads 'tread softly on the earth'.

New Residential Developments

In recent years new residential development has taken place within the village. These developments are predominately located on the fringes on the village. The development which has taken place in the village is suburban in type, sprawling in a somewhat ad hoc manner on the edges of the village. The individual houses are arranged in cul-de-sacs with about 15-20 houses per development with central communal green areas.

AREAS OF NOTE

CALVERSTOWN

KEY:

- Village Boundary
- Residential Development
- Recent Residential Development
- New Residential Development (currently under construction 2008)
- Hickey's Pub & Foodstore
- Calverstown Forge
- Village Green
- Local Stream



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2(ii) Village Character: Buildings, Structure & Streetscape (refer to Historic Development Map p10)

Historical Background

The name of Calverstown has been in existence from at least the thirteenth century and is recorded in a petition from the Royal Hospitallers of Kilmanagham listing their procession to Pope Innocent III in 1212. Under this petition a reference is made to lands described as 'Terra Philippi Vituli' or Philip of Calftown.

The Civil Survey of 1654-56 notes the area of Calverstown as an estimated 760 acres and in the proprietorship of Robert Dixon, protestant. The Civil Survey also makes reference to 'one castle and two mills upon the aforesaid lands of Calverstowne' and one 'quarry of stone'. The impressive ruins of a house within Calverstown Demesne are most likely the remains of the aforementioned castle.

The village is recorded in Lewis Topographical Dictionary of 1837 as being situated on the road between Dublin and Carlow 'containing 22 houses and 150 inhabitants'. It has two fair days on May 1st and Sept 21st.

Historical Development

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) identify archaeological sites throughout the country. The RMP for Co. Kildare identifies four sites within the vicinity of Calverstown. These include KD 032-004 an enclosure, with an unknown date, located to the east of the village. KD032-005, a church and graveyard and KD032-006, a Holywell are located c.1 km to the south of the village in the townland of Blackhall. Both these sites can be placed within a date bracket from the Early-Mid Medieval Period (c.500-900AD). Sites KD032-04701, a towerhouse and KD032-04702 a house, are both located within Calverstown Demesne to the south of the village. These sites are later in date most probably dating from the fifteenth century onwards. The variety of sites within the immediate hinterland of the village depicts the historic settlement of the area over a long time period.

A historic map dated 1752 shows the name of Calverstown at the convergence of a network of roads and also depicts a large house with trees. This may possibly be Calverstown Demesne as a ruined seventeenth century house now stands beside the neat Georgian House currently located within the Calverstown Demesne. A tower with cross is also marked on the map, possibly RMP site KD032-005. The mills recorded in the Civil Survey have disappeared by this time.

Taylor and Skinner's road map of 1783 notes a country house with tree planting at Calverstown, which is that of Calverstown Demesne. A church is clearly depicted to the immediate southwest of the house, site KD032-005. A river is shown as separating the two sites. Crossroads shown to the immediate north of the house marks the present location of the Calverstown village.

The first edition Ordnance Survey (O.S) map of 1838 shows Calverstown as a hamlet of a small cluster of buildings centred on the crossroads of the village with a small number of dispersed structures shown along the road leading southwards from the village. This crossroads is of particular importance as being the historic village core and is noted for retention in the design guidelines of this VDS (Section 4). A planted wedge of trees is marked to the immediate southeast of the crossroads behind 'Grove Villa' house. Tree planting is also visible on all routes leading from the village. The detail of a small open triangular area is shown to the immediate south of the cross roads, an area which still remains today and has been landscaped and developed into an attractive village green.

The immediate surrounding hinterland is shown as a pattern of enclosed agricultural land. Small regular field sizes are illustrated in close proximity to the village which expand in size with distance from the village. The extensive landscaped Calverstown Demesne and House are depicted to the south of the village as are the archaeological sites of St Johns Well and the 'walls of a church', (sites KD032-005/006). The archaeological site classified as an enclosure (KD032-004) is marked as a circular feature located to the west of the village.

Little development change took place between the first and second edition of the Ordnance Survey map in 1873. The morphology of the village remained the same with additional tree planting depicted on the road leading south-eastwards from the village. All aforementioned archaeological sites are still marked with a graveyard now noted beside the 'walls of a church' to the south of the village.

By the publication of the third edition Ordnance Survey map in 1910, a small amount of development had taken place within the village. This included the presence of a post office and dispensary, both located to the south of 'Calverstown Cottage' on the road leading southwards from the village. Both 'Calverstown Cottage' and 'Grove Villa' are clearly marked on this map as 'Rose Cottage' located on the road leading south east-wards from the village. Planting within the village is no longer depicted. Calverstown Demesne has also reduced in size at this time. The archaeological sites of the ruined church and well are still marked to east of the village, but the circular enclosure to the west of the village is no longer delineated.

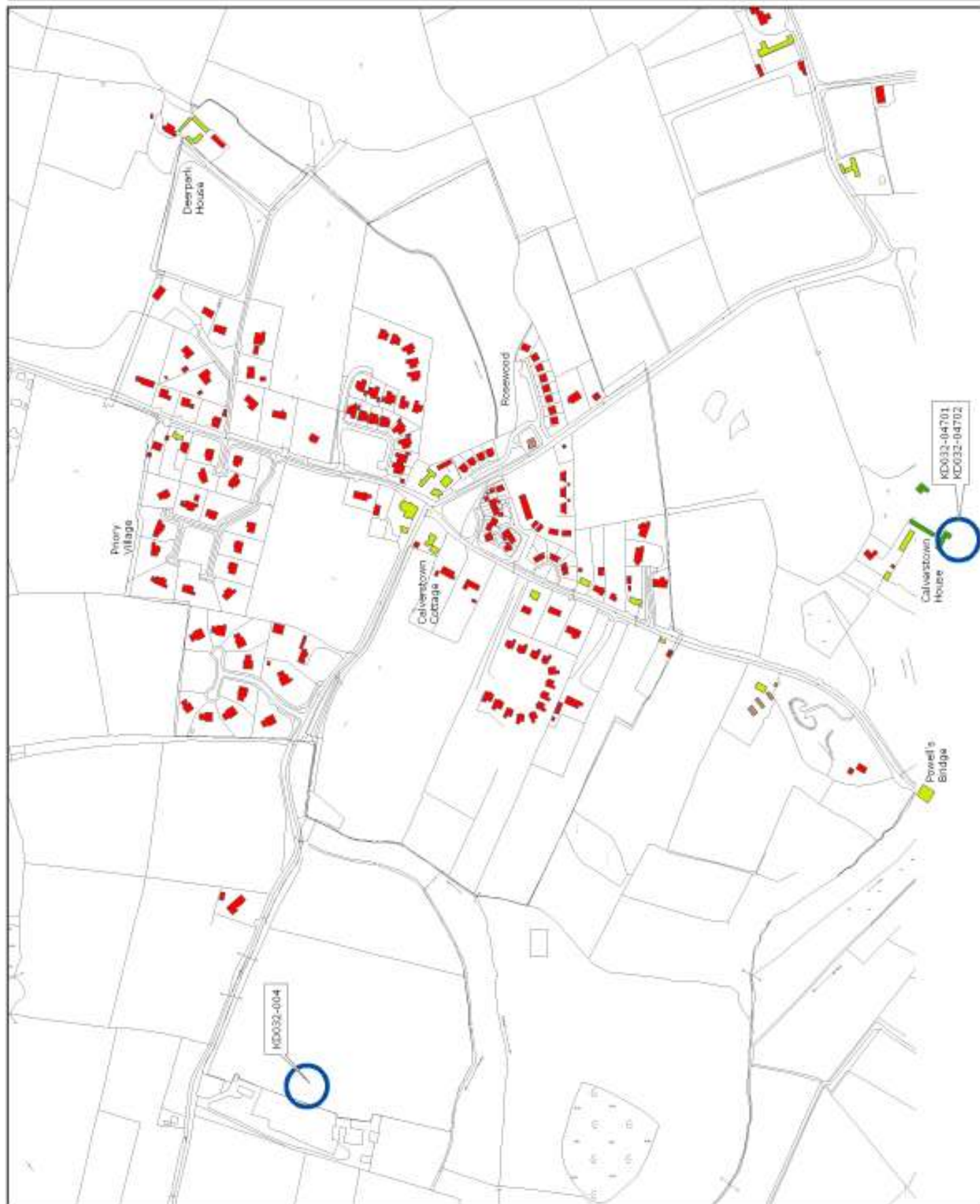
HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT CALVERSTOWN

KEY TO HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT



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Architectural Heritage (refer to Heritage Data Map p12)

The Planning and Development Act 2000 made provisions for the inclusion of structures deemed to be of historic architectural importance to be included on the record of protected structures (RPS) and for the creation of architectural conservation areas (ACA). It is now mandatory (formerly discretionary) for each Development Plan to contain a RPS, which must be compiled, maintained and reviewed by each relevant local authority.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) are a state body under the administration of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, who identify, record and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage for its long-term conservation and preservation. The surveys carried out by the (NIAH) form the basis for each RPS.

The buildings of historic interest in the village include Grove Villa, The Forge (formerly Calverstown Cottage), and Calverstown House. All these structures were identified as being of historic architectural importance and were included in both the survey carried out by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) in 2003 and are included on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) in the current County Development Plan 2005-2011.

Calverstown Cottage

RPS No: B32-31

NIAH No: 11903209

This detached house is built to a Gothic-style with half-dormer attic. It was constructed circa 1910. This is a fine architecturally designed house, modest in scale and retains much of its original form. The appearance of the house has had an influence on the design and appearance on later modern buildings that are located near by.

**Figure 6: Calverstown Cottage.**Grove Villa

RPS No: B32-30

NIAH No: 11903210

Detached single-storey house with dormer attic, it was built circa 1880. It retains many original features and varying window types.

An impressive detached fifteen-bay single- and two-storey rubble stone outbuilding, built c.1820, located to the north on an L-shaped plan about a courtyard. Notable features include a series of segmental-headed integral carriageways, cast-iron rainwater goods. Rubble stone walls with red brick dressings.

Grove Villa is a well presented architecturally designed house which presents two facades. Located at the crossroads, the building is a prominent feature within the village.

**Figure 7: Grove Villa.**Calverstown House

RPS No:

NIAH No: 11903211

Calverstown House is a fine and well-maintained middle-sized house. Having a symmetrical design of Georgian proportions, the house retains many of its original features and materials, including fenestration and the impressive doorcase. The house is of archaeological and historic interest, having continued a landed presence in the region, the earliest surviving of which is the seventeenth century house to the south. The house is set in its own mature, landscaped grounds and is an attractive focal point in the locality.

**Figure 8: Calverstown House.**

HERITAGE DATA MAP

CALVERSTOWN

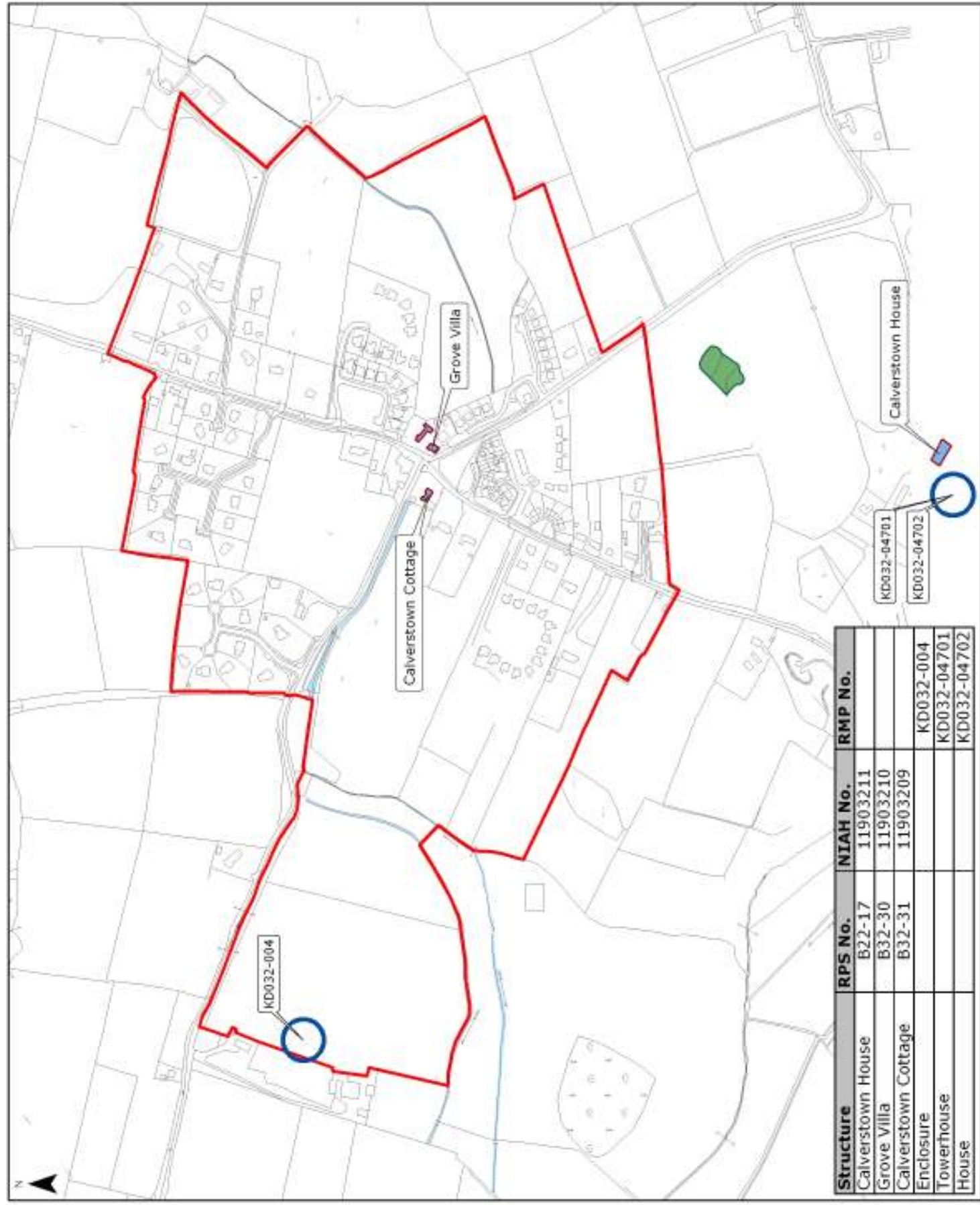
KEY TO HERITAGE MAP

- Record of Monuments and Places
- Village Boundary
- NIAH
- RPS
- Local Stream
- Wooded Area



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Structure	RPS No.	NIAH No.	RMP No.
Calverstown House	B22-17	11903211	
Grove Villa	B32-30	11903210	
Calverstown Cottage	B32-31	11903209	
Enclosure			KD032-004
Towerhouse			KD032-04701
House			KD032-04702

There are also some attractive single-storey cottages located on the road leading southwards from the village. The original form of these buildings is still discernable and represent vernacular architectural styles. Set within their own grounds and having established boundaries they make a positive contribution to the approach to the village.

Boundary Features

The boundary details in a village form an important aspect of how a village integrates with its surrounding landscape. There are a range of boundary treatments appropriate to the variety of different building types in the village. Stone walls are the prominent boundary feature in the village and there are attractive arrays of varying types forming boundaries to one off dwellings and to some housing estates. Natural hedgerows are prominent at the outskirts of the village and at various locations in the village centre.



Figure 9: Stone wall boundary .

Street Furniture & Signage

Street furniture refers to all ancillary 'furniture' such as benches, bollards, street lighting, post boxes, phone boxes, signposting and cabling which can be found in the public realm. Calverstown has a small number of benches and litter bins at the centre of the village and there is an attractive and well maintained old water pump in the village green. Signage of varying styles is present on all approach roads to the village.

Lighting

Street lighting of varying styles is evident in Calverstown. In the village green at the centre of the village there is attractive old style heritage lighting.

New development needs to respect the character and design of the established built heritage within the village which should be retained and enhanced. Design guidelines in relation to new development and how it should integrate with the existing fabric of the village is detailed in Section 4.



Figure 10: Traditional style lighting.

Calverstown Urban Analysis

Key:

- Primary Route
- Secondary Route
- Vegetative Boundary Treatment
- Local Stream
- Village Development Boundary
- Compact Urban Grain



This urban figure-ground diagram illustrates the fact that to significant residential growth the village has lost cohesion, connectivity and illegibility. Several large sites with extensive road frontage remain undeveloped which offer significant potential to improve the range and quality of local services and the built form.

Particular attention should be given to retaining the river and hedgerows and trees as features in the village, along with utilising a palette of materials including brick and retaining that would create a stronger village character.

Predominant Characteristics

- Extensive village development has occurred around the historic core of the town.
- Rapid development post 1990 has generated a wide range of setbacks of plot size, house types and layouts, all with poor connectivity between housing estates and the village core.
- Variety in building height and orientation although predominantly render or brick finish.
- Hedgerows are a feature of the boundary treatment in the village and a source of biodiversity.

2(iii) Village Character: Landscape and Setting (refer to Landscape Character Map p17)

The Surrounding Landscape

Calverstown is located in the Eastern Transition Lands of the Landscape Character Assessment in the Kildare County Development Plan 2005-2011. The lands in this area are described as 'generally of medium size and regular pattern, with commonly well maintained hedgerows. Gorse and natural vegetation occur at some areas of this unit.'

Calverstown is located within a gently undulating landscape characterised by regular sized field patterns. The surrounding landscape is typically rural with agricultural fields dedicated to livestock grazing or tillage. The field systems are demarcated by a series of mature natural hedgerows typical of rural Ireland. Most field boundaries are made up of various hedgerow species including Whitethorn, Blackthorn, Elder and Ash. Carrighill rising to 166m is located to the northwest of Calverstown while Bullhill which rises above 174m is located to the southwest. Both hills form an impressive backdrop to the village.



Figure 11: Surrounding landscape.

Approaches to Calverstown

Calverstown is located just off the N78 and N9 main routes at a cross roads. The approaches to the village are signposted with some associated landscaping.



Figure 12: Landscaped area on approach to village.

Views and Vistas

The location of the village adjacent to Calverstown demesne with Carrighill and Bullhill in the background creates several attractive scenic views. From all areas of the village attractive

views are offered of the surrounding countryside. These views and vistas are important aspects to the character of the village. The road from the N78 at Hacklow offers scenic long distance views of the Dublin/Wicklow Mountains.

Landscape Features

The village green located at the cross roads is the main landscape feature of note in the village. This green area is a focal point as one passes through the village and has been extensively landscaped with raised planters and tree planting. The stone plaque at the entrance to the landscaped area is an attractive landscape feature which captures the character of the village. A small stream runs through the centre of the village and crosses underneath the road beside Calverstown Forge. The stream is enclosed somewhat by a boundary wall but it is a local feature of note. Within the village and as part of residential developments there are attractive landscape features such as the areas of open space and associated landscape seating, planting beds etc in the various housing estates. The stone wall boundaries of the various housing estates and single dwellings add to the character of the village.



Figure 13: Stone plaque in village green.

Open Spaces

There are few areas of open space in the village. The village green located at the heart of the village is an attractive incidental open space area. Other areas of open space are those that form part of the various housing estates. These are substantial areas of open space in their own right and as most of these have only been created in the last 10 years these spaces will become more attractive as the planting in them matures.

Planting

Mature natural hedgerows are prominent throughout the village and demarcate boundaries between the built form and the surrounding landscape. There is a large amount of mature trees and small areas of woodland in Calverstown demesne. More recent tree planting has occurred in the incidental areas of open space located throughout the village and as a part of the various housing estates. All approaches to the village are well planted with mature trees and hedgerows.

Environment

There are no recycling facilities in Calverstown. As in most rural villages the existing sewerage system has limited capacity. The current wastewater treatment plant serving the village has a capacity of 300 p.e. (population equivalent) and is running at capacity.

Calverstown has a rich natural landscape which adds to the character of the village. Existing views and vistas, natural boundary features, existing natural hedgerows, the local stream, open space areas and mature tree planting on approaching the village need to be respected and considered in line with any future development in the village. Section 4 looks at general and specific design guidelines for future proposed developments. In this section measures are outlined as to how new developments can respect the existing landscape character and setting of the village.



Figure 14: Recent tree planting.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER MAP CALVERSTOWN

KEY



Village Boundary

Viewpoints
to be protected in line with
policies & objectives set out
in Chapter 19 of Kildare County
Development Plan 2005-2011



Local Stream



Significant trees & hedgerows



Open Spaces within
Village Boundary



Village Green



High Point



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Scale: NTS

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Section 3: Public Consultation

3(i) Key Issues

A public meeting was held on Tuesday the 15th April 2008 in Hickey's pub Calverstown. At this meeting members of the local community voiced their opinions on what they felt were the critical issues concerning the future development of the village. The following points are a summary of the issues raised.

Local Services

- Lack of high speed broadband (on wire)
- Problems with surface water flooding especially on Kilcullen Road
- Road improvements – especially Ballyshannon Road
- Speed ramps a wish for more especially on Narraghmore Road
- Capacity issues with sewerage
- Low water pressure in village, especially in summer
- Lack of public transport

Traffic Management & Parking

- Improved parking at shop/ pub
- Junctions of N78 at Ballyshannon Cross and Hacklow – not able to take traffic (Hacklow not reduced speed)
- Roads not wide enough for traffic volumes and need to be widened
- Speed Ramps needed in estates as well as on main roads
- Weight restriction on Lorries through village
- Traffic calming on Narraghmore Road
- Road signage and markings at junctions in village
- Reduce speed limit at Hacklow junction
- Cycle paths

- Kerbing and traffic calming extended to the two approach roads to the village i.e. Ballyshannon and Narraghmore roads. Crossroads need to be repaired properly

New Developments

- All future developments in village should be kept in character of village e.g. stone walls to be retained
- Proposed rock quarry is an issue especially noise associated
- New planning application for model village includes access path to Carrig Glen – reservations about connections to and from housing estates, may be a conduit for anti social behaviour

Landscaping & Public Realm

- Street lighting, old style and to be consistent throughout the entire village. Lighting plan needed for the village
- Signs on local areas of interest/ historical areas of interest e.g. local well. Lack of signage in village
- Removal of telegraph poles and undergrounding of services
- More litter bins
- Stream in village centre being blocked in and desire to have it opened as village feature
- Wall to be removed in front of Forge if possible to open stream
- More trees to be planted on the village green, particularly Beech, Oak and Hornbeam
- More trees need to be planted on the approach road verges where practical. Suggested species maple and rowan



Figure 15: Parking outside local pub & shop.



Figure 16: Stream running through village centre.

Pedestrian Safety

- More extensions to footpaths required outwards from the village centre
- Dishing of footpaths for disabled access
- Grass verge on Narraghmore Road removed by Council and difficult to gain access

Housing

- Request for closing of arch between Calverstown Lawns and Lee Drive

Lack of Community Facilities

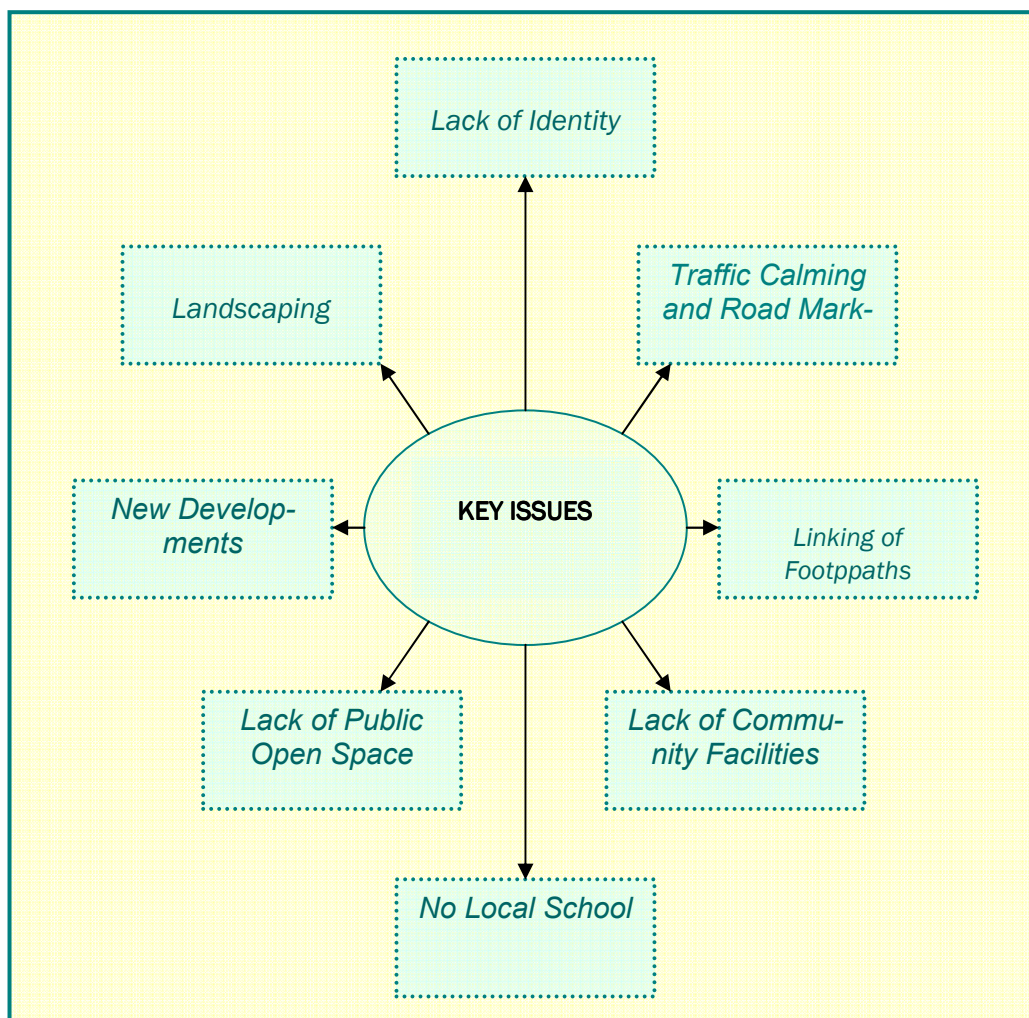
- Need for facilities for young people and teenagers
- Sports Field and Community Centre needed
- Playground needed to accommodate children from all over village
- Need for a village hall/ community centre
- Not enough amenity areas in village
- No playing fields
- Opportunity to use strip of land at Carrig Glen (Calverstown side) for amenity purposes



Figure 17: Calverstown Forge.

Other Issues

- Calverstown needs to have its own separate identity
- Smell from waste water treatment plant – smell and leakage into stream – issues of pollution
- Incorporation of Tidy Towns plan for Calverstown into VDS document
- Longer term issue: employment in village or locally

**Key Issues**

CRITICAL ISSUES: CALVERSTOWN

TRAFFIC CALMING
AT ENTRANCE TO
VILLAGE

NEED FOR MORE AMENITY
AREAS : PLAYGROUND,
PLAYING PITCHES

GREATER INTEGRATION
OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS

LACK OF COMMUNITY
FACILITIES

OPENING OF STREAM AT
CENTRE OF VILLAGE

IMPROVE
LANDSCAPING AND
TREE PLANTING

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY.
IMPROVEMENT OF
FOOTPATHS



Section 4: Design Guidelines

This section sets out design guidelines for the future development of Calverstown and deals with issues raised at public consultation meetings with the local community. Having established the village context, character (see the Urban Analysis Map p14 and the Landscape Character Map p17) and the key issues facing the future of the village these design guidelines will help the sustainable development of the village over the time period of this VDS. Section 4(i) sets out general design guidelines which look at the village structure, streetscape, design of new development, landscape setting and open space and benefits for the local community. Following from this Section 4(ii) sets out specific design guidelines which are to be read in conjunction with the Key Strategies Map p28. Finally Section 4(iii) sets out a delivery - action and implementation programme.

4(i) General Design Guidelines

The following Design Guidelines have been developed following a comprehensive analysis of the qualities and character of Calverstown that contribute to its distinctive identity. These characteristics have been identified by the local community as being fundamental to the development of design guidelines that will shape the future of the village in terms of new works, facilities, services and amenities. These design guidelines are intended to retain what is special about the character of the village and to improve and enhance this special character.

These Design Guidelines have the following three strategic objectives:

1. To conserve and enhance the character of Calverstown and its important features and landmarks;
2. To set out criteria-base standards against which changes to Calverstown may be judged, to ensure that new development contributed positively to the village;
3. To make recommendations for new works, with the aim of improving the urban realm, to be carried out in partnership with the local community.

In the preparation of these guidelines reference has been made to 'The Urban Design Manual: A best practice guide' (a companion document produced by the DoEH&LG, to accompany the Draft Planning Guidelines on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas) which was published in December 2008. The manual states that 'the most successful—and sustainable—communities are the ones that contain a good variety of things to do, see and enjoy. For larger scale developments, this means providing a good mix of uses, housing, facilities and amenities that help to engender a successful community; and 'thought should be given to how commercial uses are placed in relation to each other to help create a vibrant neighbourhood centre'. In relation to layout the document states that a layout creates people friendly streets and spaces if:

- Layout aligns routes with desire lines to create a permeable interconnected series of routes that are easy and logical to navigate around.
- The layout focuses activity on the streets by creating active frontages with front doors directly serving the street.
- The streets are designed as places instead of roads for cars, helping to create a hierarchy of space with less busy routes having surfaces shared by pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.
- Traffic speeds are controlled by design and layout rather than by speed bumps.
- Block layout places some public spaces in front of building lines as squares or greens, and some semi private space to the back as communal courts.

More details on the implementation of this Village Design Statement are set out in part (ii) of Section 4 below.

Below there is a series of Design Guidelines for new residential and mixed-use developments within Calverstown (as identified on the Key Strategies Map p28). These Design Guidelines consider the village under a number of Key Strategic areas.

The "Key Strategic" areas are as follows:

Key Strategic Areas	Policy Objectives Commence with ...
1. Village Structure	Vill
2. Village Streetscape	Street
3. Design of New Development	Desi
4. Landscape Setting and Open Space	Land
5. Benefiting the Local Community	Comm

Village Structure

The Kildare County Development Plan 2005-2011 has identified settlements and grouped them into four categories:

1. Consolidation; 2. Strengthening; 3. Revitalisation and 4. Rural Nodes.

These settlements have been categorised based on the following criteria:

- (i) Size of the settlement;
- (ii) Existing community;
- (iii) Infrastructural facilities, and;
- (iv) Development that has taken place to date.

Vill 01 Incorporating New Development	The design of new housing developments should pay particular attention to the characteristics of the local setting (as identified on the Urban Analysis Map p14 and the Landscape Character Map p17). New developments should take full account of the characteristics of the natural and built environment of the site, the views and vistas from the site, the surrounding areas and the village context. All applications for new developments will be assessed by KCC having regard to Government policies and development control standards as set out in the KCC County Development Plan 2005-2011. Please refer to the Urban Analysis map on p14 which provides a contextual description of the village which will assist in formulating proposals for new development .
Vill 02 Orientation Services Linkages	Infill development is seen as a way of consolidating the core of the village and utilising local services to maximum benefit. This development optimises the limited land availability within the village, while providing an alternative to one-off detached housing on the fringes and surrounding areas of the village. New village amenities, services and facilities should be located so as to facilitate ease of pedestrian access and allow for multi-purpose trips.
Vill 03 Historic Core	New residential development should be designed, oriented and accessed so as to consolidate and strengthen the village core. The historic core of Calverstown is centred on the crossroads and should be consolidated, as outlined on the Key Strategies Map p28.
Vill 04 Pedestrian routes	Pedestrian routes should be established and improved in Calverstown to improve permeability of residential areas. Existing and proposed pedestrian routes are identified on the Key Strategies Map p28. In particular, these routes are intended to provide good access to local amenities and facilities. These routes should be signposted to act as amenity routes/ healthy ways for leisure walkers, and lighting and seating should be put in place at appropriate locations.

Having taken these factors into account, Calverstown is identified as being a village with “consolidating” properties. This means that the Development Plan recognises that the village has experienced significant levels of growth in recent years, with some of this growth being urban-generated, thus not reflecting the needs of first time owners from the local community. Policy RS2 states, in relation to Calverstown and other “consolidating” settlements that:

Having regard to the scale and rapid pace of growth in recent years, it is considered that the capacity of these villages to absorb further growth is very limited. It is an objective that new housing shall be predominately for the local need category, who have not benefited to date from the development that has occurred in these communities, and only limited facilitation of the local growth category will be considered.



Figure 18: New residential development.



Figure 19: Linking of pedestrian routes.

Village Streetscape

Calverstown has a strong focal point around the crossroads at the "Village Green". This VDS will seek to consolidate the village core by concentrating new development in this area and avoiding one-off housing along the access roads to the village. New residential developments should provide local amenities and services to augment those in the village core.

Street 01 Streetscape of New Development	New development should reinforce the existing streetscape. New development areas (as indicated on the Key Strategies Map p28) located to the rear of the established street frontage should be designed in a clustered format.
Street 02 Infill Development Layouts	"Infill Development" sites should create a more clustered layout, maximising land usage within the village and sub-dividing larger sites. Entrances to these sites must meet minimum sightline standards and shared surfaces should be considered in lieu of wide roads with separate footpaths, as a means of minimising land take for roads and providing natural traffic calming.
Street 03 Trees & Green Spaces	Street trees and ancillary green spaces should be retained and new ones introduced to improve the visual amenity of the streetscape. Street trees should be introduced in ancillary green spaces within the village boundary. These should be carefully selected indigenous or other appropriate species.
Street 04 Footpaths & Cycleways	Walking routes in and around Calverstown should be retained and improved with all footpaths linking from the various residential estates to the village core. This includes the introduction of footpaths and crossing points (preferably on the same level as the footpath) and the resurfacing of local roads. These are identified on the Key Strategies Map p28.
Street 05 New Development Layout	In general, new developments should be laid out and the residential units designed and orientated so as to encourage active frontage and lively streetscapes. This may include the introduction of porches and entrance doors located on the front elevations (rather than the side). Boundary treatment should be low in scale and height, thus encouraging passive surveillance and similar in character to those established in the village.



Figure 20: View of village green.



Figure 21: Existing natural boundaries.

Design Guidelines for New Development Areas

New Development Areas have been indicated on the Key Strategies Map p28 within this Village Design Statement. A supporting statement must accompany all planning applications for new residential and mixed-use developments in these areas indicating how the development meets the guidelines and criteria set down below. In addition, all development proposals will require a Social Infrastructure Assessment as set down in Section 4 (iii) below.

In general, this supporting statement should demonstrate how the developer will deliver a quality residential environment on a particular site. Planning permission will only be granted for new residential development where it is demonstrated that the proposal will create a quality and sustainable residential environment.

Quality design proposals should emerge from a careful analysis of the site's location, surrounding context and the specific characteristics of the site itself. The statement should outline in writing the overall design concept and objectives for the site, based on the appraisal of the site and its context. Any proposal for residential development which fails to produce an appropriate quality of design and which fails to conform to these and other relevant criteria will not be permitted.

Sites have been identified within this VDS for Infill Development. In addition to the guidelines set down below, we would note that Section 5.10 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2005-2011 states the following in regard to infill housing:

Infill housing in existing built up areas of the towns and villages of the county will be encouraged. Any proposals should be designed to integrate successfully with the existing pattern of development in terms of housing type, scale and details such as materials, finishes, building lines etc. In all cases the protection of the amenities of existing development should be a significant consideration.

Furthermore, please refer to Chapter 6 "Rural Housing Policy" of the Kildare County Development Plan for further policy objectives that are of relevance to new residential development within Calverstown.



Figure 22: Layout to control traffic speed (Urban Design Manual 08).

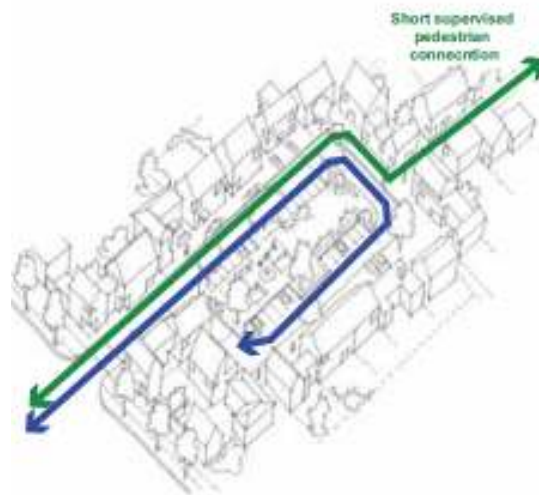


Figure 23: Designing pedestrian routes (Urban Design Manual 08).

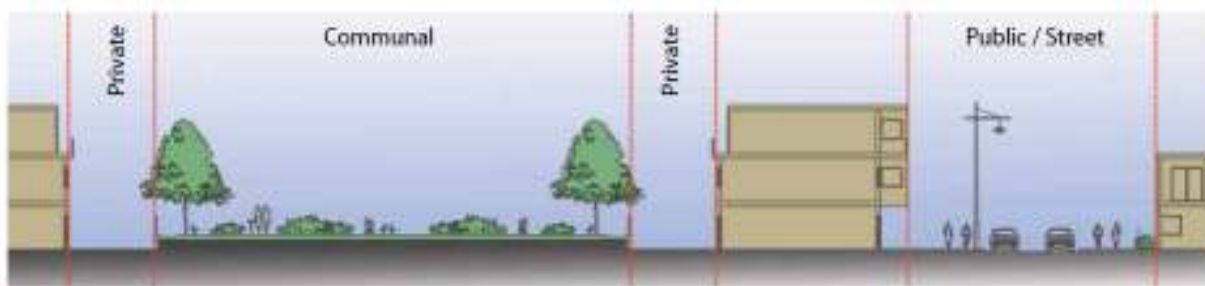


Figure 24: Layout design and open space (Urban Design Manual 08).

Desi 01 General New Development Design Standards	<p>The design of new development should draw upon the best local traditions of form, materials and detailing, which should include the use of stone, simple house forms and pitched roofs. In this regard, all planning applications should be accompanied by a supporting statement that outlines how the design approach has been achieved.</p> <p>New developments shall comply with Section 15.2.10 of the County Development Plan 2005-2011 regarding use of materials.</p>
Desi 02 Housing Layouts & Permeability	<p>In developing housing layouts, permeability should be a major consideration, most particularly for pedestrians and cyclists. Layouts based on cul-de-sacs should not be permitted as these reduce accessibility to local services and amenities and do not promote walkability of places. In all residential developments, the safety of pedestrians and quality of life should be given priority over vehicular traffic. The layout and design of all developments should be configured so as to deter crime and promote personal safety.</p>
Desi 03 Spacing between Buildings	<p>Where applicable, the adjoining established residential amenity and privacy should be respected. New dwellings that closely overlook the rear curtilage of existing dwellings should not normally be permitted.</p>
Desi 04 Proposals for 'New Development Areas'	<p>"New Development Areas" have been indicated on the Key Strategies Map p28.</p> <p>Proposals for these sites should demonstrate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provision of pedestrian linkages to key services and amenities; • design incorporating a strong road frontage that complements the existing streetscape; • clustered/ grouped housing within the site that maximises the efficient use of land and provides for a permeable layout; • including a range of house types and sizes; • provision of open space that is of a scale, location and configuration that maximises usage by all members of the local community with all levels of mobility, including a children's playground/ play area; • provision of amenities/ local facilities or an alternative planning gain that will benefit the entire local community.
Desi 05 Proposals for 'Infill Development Sites'	<p>Areas for "<u>Infill Development</u>" have been indicated on the Key Strategies Map p28, which are smaller in scale and should accommodate limited development.</p> <p>Development proposals should be permitted on these lands subject to the following safeguards being met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • existing residential development to retain, as a minimum, the required standards for private open space, as set down in the Kildare County Development Plan 2005-2011; • 22 metres distance to be provided between opposing rear walls. This standard may be relaxed subject to orientation and design quality, but a minimum rear garden length of 10 metres shall be provided; • road access should provide adequate sightlines, given the likely volume of traffic entering the site. Shared surfaces to be provided in lieu of distributor-standard roads; • there is to be no negative impact on the residential amenity of the adjoining properties;

Desi 06 House Types	A range of house types and sizes should be provided within residential developments. Apartments and duplex type units would not be considered appropriate for development in Calverstown.
Desi 07 Open Space & Hedgerows	Within new development areas, adequate provision should be made for public and private open space and landscaped areas (in accordance with Kildare County Development Plan 2005-2011 standards). These areas should be provided as an integral part of the development. Where appropriate, planted areas or discrete groups of trees should be located along site boundaries in order to soften the visual impact of the development and assist in its integration with the surrounding area. Hedgerows may be used as an open space feature, see Land 01 and hedgerows identified on the Key Strategies Map p28. Where possible and practicable, residential units should be located fronting areas of open space.
Desi 08 Parking	Adequate and appropriate provision should be made for parking which, in principle, should be operationally and physically unobtrusive. In new residential developments, parking should be provided within the curtilage of the development and in accordance with Kildare County Development Plan 2005-2011 standards.
Desi 09 Naming of Estates	The naming of all new housing estates should be demonstrated to have a local connection and relevance and should reflect the character of Calverstown and its setting (as outlined in Section 15.5 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2005-2011).
Desi 10 Gated Developments	The development of residential gated communities will not be permitted in Calverstown.
Desi 11 Orientation of Layouts & use of Sustainable Energy	Good natural light makes dwellings more attractive, pleasant and energy efficient. Housing layouts should be designed, oriented and sited so as to maximise daylight and sunlight (solar gain) to dwellings as far as possible, thus being sustainable by design. This should be achieved while maintaining high standards of design in general, particularly in relation to privacy, existing residential amenity and the achievement of an attractive streetscape. The use of sustainable forms of energy should be promoted for all new developments.
Desi 12 Waste Storage	New housing estates and layouts should allow for the inclusion of waste storage and collection facilities for households and estates.

Landscape Setting and Open Space

The landscape setting of the village is generally characterised as being low-lying agricultural land, comprising large fields. There is a severe shortage of quality amenity open space for the local community and a lack of any facilities for play areas, including formal playing pitches, tennis/ basketball courts, playgrounds etc.

Land 01 Open Space	Existing ancillary areas of open space should be retained as open space to serve the residential developments. New developments should provide quality areas of open space with facilities such as play grounds, sports facilities etc. Areas of open space provide an opportunity to create linkages between housing estates and a means of promoting permeability. It may be appropriate to retain hedgerows as wildlife refuges in areas of open space providing that they do not act as a barrier or cause security, safety, and passive surveillance problems.
Land 02 Village Green	The Village Green should be retained and improved as a green space and focal point in the centre of Calverstown, which should include the corner of Calverstown Forge and Hickey's Pub and the river (currently largely culverted).
Land 03 Stone Walls	Existing stone walls should be maintained, retained and restored as a significant local feature of Calverstown, particularly on the approach roads, entrances to housing estates and the boundary wall of Grove Villa.
Land 04 River Walk	In Calverstown the local stream, as identified on the Landscape Character Map p17, should be kept open and should be used as an amenity feature and/or focal point for village improvements.

Benefiting the Local Community

The process of preparing this Village Design Statement is one that has been fundamentally based on community participation, without which this document would not have been prepared. Community consultation workshops with the local community has led to the formulation of the objectives and strategies within this VDS. The majority of the aims and objectives have been conceived so as to benefit the local community in the short, medium and longer term.

Comm 01	Encouraging and supporting the development of new community facilities should be a priority for the local community and for Kildare County Council. These may include a community/ sports hall, sports fields/ playing courts, amenities for children and teenagers, services for the elderly, a post office and a national school. See list of community requirements established for the village in Section 4(iii) Delivery, Action and Implementation Programme.
Comm 02	An Urban Realm Improvement Plan should be prepared for Calverstown, by the Calverstown community group, to include new lighting, signage, litter bins, seating and areas identified for improved planting. A particular focus for this plan should be the village core and crossroads, and making a feature of the river in the centre of the village, including opening up the view of the river and any bridging points. Well-designed parking bays should be incorporated, particularly to serve Hickey's pub and the Calverstown Forge development.
Comm 03	The local community should be assisted and supported in maintaining and improving the existing areas of green/open space within existing residential developments in Calverstown. In particular, it is proposed that the local community group should develop a river walkway and a sensory garden for the use of the whole community of Calverstown (p30/31).

In relation to broadband coverage, the matter of a lack of coverage was raised at the public consultation meeting. According to maps produced by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources Calverstown is served by wireless broadband but not yet through the existing wired infrastructure serving broadband.

4(ii) Specific Design Guidelines

Key Strategies - Refer to Map Above

1. "New Development Areas" have been indicated on the Key Strategies Map, which are of a size and scale to establish their own character, while working within the parameters of this VDS. Proposals for these sites should demonstrate the following:

- Provision of pedestrian linkages to key services and amenities;
- Design incorporating a strong road frontage that complements the existing streetscape;
- Clustered/grouped housing within the site that maximises the efficient use of land and provides for a permeable layout;
- Layouts to include a range of house types and sizes;
- Provision of open space that is of a scale, location and configuration that maximises usage by all members of the local community with all levels of mobility, including a children's playground/ play area;
- Provision of amenities/ local facilities or an alternative planning gain that will benefit the entire local community.

1A. Please note that developments on these lands should be subject to meeting Kildare County Council's and Government policy and objectives in terms of flood management and mitigation.

2. Areas for "Infill Development" have been indicated on the Key Strategies Map, which are smaller in scale and should accommodate limited development. Development proposals should be permitted on these lands subject to the following safeguards being met:

- Existing residential development to retain, as a minimum, the required standard for private open space, as set down in the Kildare County Development Plan 2005-2011;
- 22 metres distance to be provided between opposing rear walls. This standard may be relaxed subject to orientation and design quality, but a minimum rear garden length of 10 metres shall be provided;
- Access to the sites needs to be seriously addressed. Shared surfaces to be provided in lieu of distributor-standard roads;
- There shall be no negative impact on the residential amenity of the adjoining properties;

3. Existing areas of open space should be retained and their future enhancement supported by the local community and Kildare County Council, including investigating the introduction of playground equipment.

4. A new amenity area of open space should be provided on these lands in the form of a sensory garden and/or a linear park. This space should be user friendly to people of all ages and all levels of mobility. Plants should be provided that stimulate visual, smell, hearing and touch. Running water and an area of seating are also features of sensory gardens, and part of the garden area should incorporate allotment-type planting. This project could be realised with the assistance of the local community, including the local children.

5. The wirescape within Calverstown should be placed underground in line with any future service expansion/upgrading, within the area defined by the village boundary



Figure 25: Undergrounding of wirescape.

6. Traffic calming measures should be introduced within Calverstown, comprising reduced speed limit signage, pinch points and raised areas for prams and wheelchair users to cross the road in safety and with maximum ease. In addition, signage should be improved at the junctions with the N78 at Ballyshannon Cross and Hacklow in order to reduce speed.



Figure 26: Traffic calming measures.

7. Continuous footpaths should be put in place within the Calverstown village boundary area and roads should be upgraded and re-surfaced.
8. Information signage should be placed in the village, to include a village notice/ information board erected at, or in the vicinity of, the Village Green, providing information for both the local community and visitors alike.



Figure 27: Example of heritage style signage.

9. An Urban Realm Improvement Plan should be prepared for Calverstown by the Community Group, to include new lighting, signage, litter bins, seating and areas identified for improved planting. A particular focus for this plan should be the village core and crossroads, and making a feature of the river in the centre of the village, including opening up the view of the river and any bridging points. Well-designed parking bays should be incorporated, particularly to serve Hickey's pub and the Calverstown Forge development.
10. Pedestrian permeability within the village should be improved through the incorporation of new and improved cycling/ walking routes, particularly those to serve local amenities and facilities.
11. A new scheme for public lighting should be prepared with an appropriately designed heritage-type lamp standard. Where possible, this theme should be continued into any new residential developments in Calverstown. Energy efficient lighting should be used where possible.
12. Natural stone walls within and on the main roads entering Calverstown are a feature of the village, and should be retained, maintained or reinstated as appropriate.
13. Village Buffer Zone: this area should be retained as open in character in the short term but may be considered for development in the longer term subject to proposals satisfactorily addressing all objectives of this VDS.



Figure 28: Community facilities.

FEATURES OF A SENSORY GARDEN

Perfumed flowers

Compare the perfumes of different flowers such as roses, camellias, gardenias, jasmine, buddleia, heliotrope (cherry pie), fruit trees, osmanthus, murraya, portwine magnolia, stephanotis, rondeletia, viburnum tinus and honeysuckle.

Aromatic foliage

Herbs with aromatic foliage provide different smells and textures in the environment, e.g. lavender, basil, thyme, menthol mint, rosemary, lemon verbena, apple-mint, chamomile, pineapple sage, fruit salad sage, chives, prostanthera (mint bush), wormwood, bergamot and spicy globe basil.

Features to touch

Different bark or flower textures can add tactile variety to your garden, e.g. bottle brush, Chinese elm, summer love, banksia and wormwood. Rocks, garden ornaments and statues can also add tactile interest.

Sounds in the garden

Several flowers, plants and trees such as casuarinas and robinias make unique sounds in the wind. A wind-chime can provide a pleasant sound when a breeze blows through the garden. Water features can have soothing sounds. Many nectar-rich plants and flowers such as grevilleas attract an abundance of birdlife. Installing a birdbath also provides a place for birds to drink and splash!

Tastes from the garden

Tease your tastebuds by planting fruit trees, vegetables or herbs. Try mandarin trees, passion fruit vines, lemonade trees, peas, tomatoes and carrots or parsley, mint and basil to name a few.

Figure 29: Features of a Sensory Garden.

4(iii) Delivery - Action & Implementation Programme

This VDS sets out aims and objectives for the management of development that will act as a positive tool for change to benefit the community of Calverstown. This VDS has outlined the analyses and the proposals, as put forward by the local community, to be achieved in the short, medium and longer term.

This particular section of this VDS sets out a framework for the achievement of the plan's objectives. The delivery of the plan involves cooperation from the local community, developers and local authorities in order to promote the protection, conservation, appropriate uses and future management of the village.

The implementation of this plan will require investment in both physical and social infrastructure to support the protection and conservation of the area and the other developments within Calverstown. The Local Authority will expect and require that developers fund and provide the infrastructure necessary to support any development proposed by them and to contribute financially to the cost of other essential infrastructure and amenities necessary to support the development of the town as a whole. This will be achieved through the measures outlined below.

All planning applications for residential developments of five units or greater in Calverstown will be required to be accompanied with a 'Social Infrastructure Assessment' (SIA) (in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 6 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2005-2011). In certain cases however, residential development of less than five units may, at the discretion of the Planning Authority, require the submission of a SIA. [A SIA form is available on the Kildare County Council website].

The overarching purpose of a SIA is:

- To give a broad overview of existing social infrastructure (services/facilities) currently provided within the vicinity of a proposed development site and
- To determine what measures could be proposed as part of a development scheme in order to provide for social infrastructure (services/facilities) which are considered by the Planning Authority to be deficient in the area.

In the preparation of this VDS the following list of requirements for Calverstown were established in no particular order:

1. Playing pitches;

2. New Primary School;
3. Community facilities and services;
4. Community open space and amenity areas (to serve the entire community and to include street trees and street furniture);
5. Crèche or playschool facilities.

Establishment of Community Council

In order for the objectives of this VDS to be delivered, it is proposed that a Community Council be established as a limited company with charitable status. This Community Council will effectively be the "project champion" for this VDS. Its role will be the following:

1. Establish a committee of members elected by the local community annually for the purpose of achieving the objectives set down in this VDS.
2. Secure funding for projects proposed within this VDS, and others projects in the future. This VDS may be used in support of funding applications - potential sources of funding are listed in Appendix 1 below.
3. Act as a community liaison and contact point for Kildare County Council and other statutory bodies and agencies in future proposals and managing change for the village of Calverstown.
4. Update the objectives of the VDS and develop new objectives, as appropriate. (See the "Performance Report" below)
5. Keep the local community updated by various means, including holding meetings, a community website and notice board and using any other local forum, for example a local newsletter or newspaper (See the "Communications Strategy" below).

Funding and Timeframe

There are many varied sources of funding available in order to achieve the objectives set down in this VDS. Some examples of funding sources are listed in the Appendix 1 of this document.

In order to deliver this VDS in an effective, timely and coordinated manner, a series of priorities must be set down. The Action Plan table below sets out the following:

- i. Action
- ii. Level of Intervention
- iii. Timescale
- iv. Project Lead/ Champion
- v. Possible Source of Funding

“Quick win” projects have been identified in the table. These have one or more of the following criteria:

- I. Deliverable in the short term;
- II. Have the potential to have a positive spin-off or catalytic effect;
- III. May not require a significant level of funding;
- IV. May not be impacted by regulatory or other constraints;
- V. Are readily achievable within the current structure/ available funding.

It is vital that this Action Plan be regularly augmented and amended so that priorities are updated as necessary and that any new projects are identified on an ongoing basis.

Communications Strategy & Performance Report

The delivery of this planning strategy will rely on all the relevant information being provided to the delivering organisations. The adoption of a Communications Strategy will clearly set down matters such as the protocols and regularity of meetings and communications to partners and the wider local community. It may be considered useful to establish a community notice board, website, email circulars, and other means of communicating regular updates.

It is also suggested that an annual “Performance Report” on the plan’s progress. This will ensure that progress is monitored and evaluated and that, where necessary, priorities are reassigned or new projects/ actions are identified.

LIST OF DELIVERABLES AND LEVEL OF INTERVENTION REQUIRED FOR ACTION						
Deliverable 1: Urban Realm Improvement Plan						
No	Action - low intervention	Action - medium intervention	Action - high intervention	Project Champion	Possible Sources of Funding	PRIORITY
1	Put in place community notice board in centre of village			Community Council	Kildare County Council to assist local community	HIGH
2	Planting (permanent and temporary) of plants, shrubs, flowers and trees. Ongoing maintenance, including pruning trees and hedgerows and cutting grass verges			Tidy Towns	Local businesses and contributions from households	HIGH
3		Traffic calming measures (possibly to be incorporated with crossing points - see number 7 below)		Community Council	Kildare County Council & Private Charitable Lottery (funding is available form National Lottery for the setting up of these charitable lotteries - see www.lotto.ie)	HIGH
4		Local signage, walking routes and possible walking or local heritage festival/ event			Heritage Council (Local Heritage Grants scheme). Assistance from Waymarked Ways of Ireland	LOW
5			New lighting, seating and signage	Community Council		MEDIUM
6			New paving and road surface, including parking bays to serve businesses and services in village core	Community Council	Kildare County Council & Private Charitable Lottery (funding is available form National Lottery for the setting up of these charitable lotteries - see www.lotto.ie)	MEDIUM
7			Safe crossing points to cater for mobility impaired on main roads in village	Community Council		MEDIUM
8			Undergrounding of wirescape within village	Community Council		LOW

Delivery

Delivery

Deliverable 2: Develop River Walkway					
No	Action - low intervention	Action - medium intervention	Action - high intervention	Project Champion	Possible Sources of Funding
1		Establish pathway with railing and river crossing points, where necessary		Community Council	See List of possible Sources of Funding in Appendix
2		Signage and finger boards on walking route		Community Council	See List of possible Sources of Funding in Appendix
Deliverable 3: Sensory Garden					
No	Action - low intervention	Action - medium intervention	Action - high intervention	Project Champion	Possible Sources of Funding
1			Site acquisition	Community Council	See List of possible Sources of Funding in Appendix
2		Planting to appeal to all five senses		Community Council	See List of possible Sources of Funding in Appendix
3		Seating		Community Council	See List of possible Sources of Funding in Appendix
4		Water feature		Community Council	See List of possible Sources of Funding in Appendix
5		Pathway, access points, gate and boundary treatment		Community Council	See List of possible Sources of Funding in Appendix

Deliverable 4: Community Facilities/ Services						
No	Action - low intervention	Action - medium intervention	Action - high intervention	Project Champion	Possible Sources of Funding	PRIORITY
1	Tidy Estates Competition in Calverstown			Local Residents Associations/ Tidy Towns	Prize fund needs to be established. Work to this to be voluntary. Local businesses to contribute to fund, with assistance from Kildare County Council	HIGH
2	Speed limit signage and signage with lower speed limit in centre of village to be introduced on all roads entering Calverstown			Kildare County Council	Signage to be put in place by Kildare County Council	HIGH
3		Establish community parent and toddler/ playgroup		Community Council	Katherine Howard Foundation (www.khf.ie) LEADER +	MEDIUM
4		Research for greener ways of approaching all aspects of life and assistance with putting it into place, eg recycling		Community Council	Cleaner Greener Production Programme with the EPA (see www.epa.ie) and ongoing funding mechanisms in place	LOW

* Please note that projects highlighted in red have been identified as "quick win" projects and have the potential to be the catalyst for further works and a means of developing a strong Community Council and gaining local involvement

Delivery

Potential Sources of Funding

There are a number of sources from which funding could be sought for the implementation of this project. A number of such sources are listed below.

DOEHLG Civic Structures Conservation Grants Scheme

Heritage Council

See: www.heritagecouncil.ie/grants

International Fund for Ireland

LEADER+

Leader+ aims to encourage the emergence and testing of new approaches to integrated and sustainable development that will influence, complete and/or reinforce rural development policy in the Community.

The New Culture Programme (2007-2013)

International Funds for Ireland

PEACE III

The Getty Foundation

The Ireland Funds

The Ireland Funds is an international charitable organisation operating in 11 countries and has raised over \$300 million for worthy causes in Ireland.

Irish Georgian Society

The conservation of Ireland's rich architectural heritage is the principal aim of the Irish Georgian Society. Many important buildings continue to be threatened either by neglect or unsympathetic development.

Irish Landmark Trust

The Irish Landmark Trust Limited saves heritage buildings that are abandoned or at risk throughout the whole of Ireland. The Trust undertakes their conservation, restoration and maintenance by converting them to domestic use suitable for short-term (e.g. holiday) lettings.

OPW

The OPW has responsibility for the day-to-day running of all National Monuments and Historic Properties.

Gulbenkian Foundation

The UK Branch of the Portugal-based Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation is responsible for grant aid in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

Irish Heritage Trust

Launched in 2006, and still in the process of being commissioned, the Irish Heritage Trust will acquire, through negotiation and tax incentives, historic properties, houses and gardens that will be open for everyone's enjoyment forever. Sources of funding may be available through this agency in future years. Part of its brief is to protect the heritage of Ireland, and to actively engage with local communities.

Artists in the Community Scheme

Foras na Gaeilge

(Contact: Foras na Gaeilge, 7 Merrion Square, Dublin 2)

The Arts Council

(Contact: The Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2)

Festivals and Cultural Events (Failte Ireland)

The Festivals and Cultural Events Initiative has the objective of expanding regional tourism through festivals and cultural events.

(Contact: Bord Fáilte, Baggott Street Bridge, Dublin 2)

The Community Development Programme

(Contact: Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs)

Carnegie UK Trust's Rural Community Development Grant Policy

(Contact: Carnegie UK Trust, Comely Park House, 80 New Row)

National Lottery

Katherine Howard Foundation

Tidy Towns (DoEHLG)

EPA Cemetery Maintenance Grants (Kildare Co Co) Community Grants Scheme (Kildare Co Co) Litter Bin Grants (Kildare Co Co)

*Please note that all information was correct at time of publication. Please refer to Kildare 4 Community on the internet for further local sources of funding.

www.open4community.ie/kildare/

This Village Design Statement, undertaken in partnership with the community of Calverstown, was produced by Kildare County Council.

Kildare County Council would like to acknowledge the role of KSA in working with the community of Calverstown towards the realisation of this Village Design Statement.

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April 2009

