

Tidy Towns Competition 2011

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glounthaune** Ref: **130**
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **243**
Category: **B** Date(s): **11/07/2011**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2010	Mark Awarded 2011
Overall Development Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	50	27	28
Landscaping	50	28	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26	27
Litter Control	50	27	27
Waste Minimisation	20	9	9
Tidiness	30	21	22
Residential Areas	40	28	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25	26
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	237	243

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Glounthaune to the 2011 TidyTowns Competition and your participation is important to the competition. Thank you for the completed entry form. It was great to read that this year you have had increased committee meetings. Regular meetings are really important. The range of public and private groups supporting your work is most encouraging. It is suggested that you can expand your communications media by using text messaging, Facebook and or emails. A 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for Glounthaune was not included entry this year. It is suggested that you work on that in the year ahead using the ten adjudication categories as a framework. Projects should then be identified by implementation year.

The Built Environment:

The Church looked crisp and refreshed following the recent work on the external stonework. On the day of the visit work was underway in the Church car park. Painting of the railway House was also admired. Your plans for a Heritage Trail were studied with great interest and really good progress seems to have been made on this project. The small retail area at the Post Office was very neat and tidy and fresh painting seemed to be evident here. Good landscaping was admired at the National School where car park markings looked fresh and seemed to have been repainted recently. The Playground was tidy and in great demand on the day of the visit. It is suggested that the roadside timberwork at the Railway Station is treated.

Landscaping:

New seating at Craig's Field was visited and the overall presentation here has improved since last year. Continuing improvement to the Ashbourne Walkway was noted and this is a really attractive area. The Grotto was visited and new planting admired. It was good to read that you are making progress on the very difficult Japanese Knotweed problem. At the Dry bridge some raised landscaping was admired which was quite

colourful. Planting around the village was admired including in the centre of the village near the shop. Elsewhere flower tubs added additional welcome colour. The flower planting at the Glounthaune signs were especially admired. Your adjudicator reminds all Tidy Towns Committees that the cutting of roadside banks and ditches in the period 1st March to 30th August is not permitted under Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976, incorporating section 46 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Restoration work on water levels at the Ashbourne Pond is commended and it is great to see that wildlife is beginning to return here. The plans for the Bird Observatory are really interesting. Do consider the key issues of ongoing maintenance and running costs. Interpretation here must be kept simple but totally accurate. Good drawings or photographs will add additional interpretative interest. There is potential for wildlife interpretation at the lower village area below the road at the end of the cul-de-sac.

Litter Control:

Well done on your involvement in the Litter Challenge and the huge cleanup carried out in April when so many bags of rubbish were collected. It was good to read that you are working with the Litter Warden on littering caused by HGV vehicles. Hopefully this problem has now abated. The Bring Centre opposite the Railway Station was visited and some dumping was evident here. Otherwise this facility was quite well presented.

Waste Minimisation:

This category is primarily about waste reduction in Glounthaune and should be the main focus of your work in this section for next year. A simple waste audit is suggested that you might carry out in the village including the Church and the National School. Find out what waste is generated in Glounthaune and then start discussions on how this might be reduced. Do give us the details on progress for next year's entry. Recycling is of course considered here but has a much lower priority than waste reduction. How is the National School progressing with the Green Flag Programme; do give them every possible encouragement.

Tidiness:

Work on the cleaning of the Station Platform was admired as was your work on kerb weed control. The yellow and black pole for the School sign needed to be painted. Not far from the Railway Station very large roadside advertising signage caught the eye and these are not in keeping with the environmental ethos of the village. When the Licence or Permit for this signage expires perhaps the situation can be reviewed then. Some maintenance works were necessary on these signs also. At the Railway Station flower tubs at the roadside needed to be treated.

Residential Areas:

Impressive sloping grassy areas were admired on the approach to The Highlands. This is a well maintained mature estate with well landscaped private gardens. Again excellent private landscaping stood out at Cois Chuain. Housing along the Knockraha road impressed in presentational terms. The area below the road (New Glanmire 1819) is an unexpected discovery in Glounthaune and private houses here were very well presented though a few rusty gates needed to be repainted. Natural and artificial landscaping here has matured well. The strong brave colour at The Rising Tide works well here and compliments this area in positive terms. Johnstown has an attractive open feel as a residential area and houses are well set back from the road. The very large central grass area was being well maintained.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The two main approach roads to Glounthaune were quite well presented though some additional grass cutting of verges on the main road was needed. The new pathway from the Railway Station to the Ship was seen and admired together with new bollards. New parking opposite the shop has improved this area. Improved verges were admired along the Ashbourne to Caherlag road.

General Impression:

Glounthaune is quite an attractive village even if the volume of through traffic is still quite high. Your committee is adopting a dedicated approach to their work for the village which is admired. The best of luck in the next twelve months and we will be back again next summer.