

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glounthaune** Ref: **130**
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **254**
Category: **B** Date(s): **12/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	38	40
The Built Environment	50	28	30
Landscaping	50	29	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27	27
Litter Control	50	27	30
Tidiness	30	22	21
Waste Minimisation	20	9	9
Residential Areas	40	29	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26	27
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	243	254

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to Glounthaune TidyTowns Committee for entering in the TidyTowns competition for 2012. We wish you the best of luck with your entry. It is a wonderful achievement for any community to participate in a major national competition. This adjudicator loved your map which was simple and easy to use. Numbering your activities in the text of your submission and on the map was most helpful. On next year's map you might mark in the town limits. The adjudicator missed the town sign at the bridge, understandably and drove for ages. The same is true for the road to the cemetery, no 9 on the list. The adjudicator failed to find this. You seem to have listened to last year's adjudicator regarding a Plan. The adjudicator was impressed with your Plan which eventually will take you to 2022, if we live! The projects you set out are definable, are achievable, have dates attached and in many cases have named individuals to champion the particular cause. All that was missing was a mention of funding but one is certain that you have covered that base also. Your TidyTowns committee seems to be in a healthy state as you meet regularly, you liaise fruitfully with the community and with the various agencies in Glounthaune, you have meaningful contact with the schools. The missing link, possibly, is your own website or Facebook site. Such a site brings you into constant contact with your community. This adjudicator senses your annoyance over the Litter marks. Lets see.

The Built Environment:

Even though your village is small in size Glounthaune is fortunate to possess many lovely buildings. First encountered is the Railway Station and this is well maintained and presented. The Church and its grounds are magnificent. One really enjoyed the visit to the Rising Tide. Mind you the New Glanmire frightened the adjudicator into thinking he was adjudicating the incorrect village. 1819 gave a sense of the sacredness of this harbourside enclave. The school from 1901 has retained its freshness. The steps are not just a walkway but also part of the mystery tour. Your modern school seems an ideal fit for purpose building. Its location must reduce stress levels among the teachers and spark the imagination of the pupils. The bridge adds to the

quaint mystique of the village. You are aware of your old stone walls. They are an important feature of your built environment. Well done on coordinating the colour scheme of the shops. Your childrens' playground is not only superb in itself but made all the better by its location.

Landscaping:

The Lord has dealt Glounthaune a great hand. The trees oversee all that is happening. The outcropping cliff makes its contribution to the diversity. You too assist. The planted wall along by the railway is alive with colour. The planting at the bridge is well worth the effort. I would dispense with the tub at the Glounthaune sign on the N25. There is plenty of soil to plant an appropriate welcome to your village. Private houses contribute to the colour, some gloriously. What might be regarded as poor practice is a virtue in Glounthaune. Planting flowers along the bottom of the wall along the road with 20 and 21 on its adds colour to the natural vegetation. The Church car park is delightful. This adjudicator would love to find some benches, even picnic tables on the Ashbourne Walk. The picnic table down at Craigs lends to the tranquil atmosphere.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The projects mentioned in your submission are not just interesting but also of value to the wellbeing of the wildlife in your area. A most heartening feature of the work you have done with regard to Wildlife is that you consult with expertise in this area, in your case Birdwatch Ireland and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. We need to hear more on what has come out of these meetings. There is little evidence of work on the ground, I am sorry to say. The Glounthaune area is alive with wildlife. It is positive that you mention the Ashbourne Walk. Desist from the weed killer, anathema to wildlife.

Litter Control:

You are achieving your aims in the litter section. There is a little litter, roadside litter and along the Ashbourne Walk, for instance. But your patrols are having a positive effect. What one really likes is your strategy with regard to litter. You work on litter awareness. Vital. You liaise with the school on the matter of litter. You have surveyed your collected litter and plan to do so again. Furnish us with results in next year's submission. You attempt to promote litter awareness among the adult population also. Necessary. Do not be afraid to think in terms of litter awareness signage.

Tidiness:

It depends on how one sees tidy. If one were to spring clean Glounthaune it would be like using Jif to wash a strawberry. Tidy means something else in the case of Glounthaune. A sand stone cliff does not look tidy but its charm lights its surroundings. The growth hides the sand stone beauty and causes untidy. Well done on your laborious efforts to expose the sandstone. This adjudicator feels that putting out weed killer on the Ashbourne Path creates untidy. That path no longer serves the purpose for which it was created. Nature is reclaiming that stretch. Leave it be. The tidiness is in the self expression of the vegetation but also in controlling that vegetation in places, as at the kerbs on the road. The traffic can cause unease at times, a little untidy. This adjudicator would suffer that unease rather than have traffic ramps. Graffiti is untidy. So also is that large advertising hoarding and you do agree, I read.

Waste Minimisation:

The two projects that stand out are the water waste audit and the attainment of Green Flag Status. One looks forward to the results of the waste water audit in next year's submission. Points number 1 and 4 belong in other sections of the submission, possibly Tidiness and Litter Control. You mention 'civic consciousness' in your plans for the coming year. Discuss what you mean in the context of minimising waste. Discuss what waste minimisation means. What is at the core of this section of the competition? Recycling is but one element of the category.

Residential Areas:

The residential stock of Glounthaune is impressive. Down at the Rising Tide one feels they have entered a Tír n-Óg fairyland. The road over the bridge replaces a footpath with flowers and plants. Pedestrians can use the steps down to the lower level. The terraces of houses are beautifully bedecked with branches and wispy bits of foliage. Back on the terra firma of the hillside the Highlands become a cherry picker to elevate one from sea level to towering view in a few yards. All houses seem to share this view while at the same time bringing colour and texture to their surroundings with the varied planting. Continue up to Cois Chuain and the tranquillity continues, again landscaping helping to create personality. Private houses adorn their surroundings all about. These have a settled look as if they have been peering through their foliage for generations. The cottage on the way to the school attracts special attention as it holds its own with its more expansive neighbours.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The old N25 forms the approach road to your village. The roads down the hill must be very much secondary. Though this adjudicator found that road the most endearing with the natural vegetation dominating the visual beauty, interfered with by some housing and the lovely gardens of the left. You maintain the N25 in an attractive manner. Maybe one day you will place a rock or a piece of sculpture at each village end of the N25 to welcome the passer-by and to say good bye. Keep an eye out for unwelcome weeds at the bottom of the wall.

General Impression:

What a delightful place to visit with the quaint touches of an age gone by. Your work helps to give Glounthaune its personality. What was once a village on a busy road might now be known only as a stop on a train journey were it not for people of Glounthaune who wish to share its village charm with the rest of Cork. Define what gives Glounthaune its personality and accentuate those traits. Marks in a competition are secondary.