

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glounthaune** Ref: **130**
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **262**
Category: **B** Date(s): **05/06/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	40	40
The Built Environment	50	30	32
Landscaping	50	31	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27	27
Litter Control	50	30	31
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	9	10
Tidiness	30	21	22
Residential Areas	40	31	32
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27	28
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	254	262

Overall Development Approach:

Glounthaune is very welcome to the 2013 Tidy Towns competition. It was a pleasure to visit for the first time. Thank you for your application. Your map and notes were very helpful but the actual map could be a little clearer. Remember the adjudicator is usually a stranger to the area. You have a strong committee of 12. You have good links with Cork Co Co, Iarnrod Eireann and SECAD. You also show good engagement with local groups and businesses. Your Tidy Towns Plan is impressive and you have a clear idea of what you wish to achieve in the short, medium and long term. Just make sure you have objectives under all of the TT categories, if you want to reach a high level in the competition.

The Built Environment:

Glounthane 'village' is a pleasant surprise when you leave the main road and maybe could be highlighted more to passers-by. It is a welcome escape from the busy traffic! The beautifully refurbished Community Centre is one of the highlights and it is good to see the sign for the old school still here. The playground was in good order, however the sign requires cleaning and graffiti removal. The attractive brightly coloured 'Rising of the Tide' pub/restaurant is a lovely place to sit and admire the wonderful views. Well done for the installation of the new heritage trail. The signs are good quality, attractive and help bring a 'village feel' back to Glounthaune. The playground is in good order. Fitzpatrick's supermarket and surrounds is very neatly presented. The 'history of the shop' panel is fascinating! The recently painted Great O Neill's pub next door looks very well. Both premises have been enhanced with window boxes. The school has a lovely stone wall, mature landscaping and a neat roadside appearance. The church and grounds look well.

Landscaping:

The long shrubbery sponsored by Fitzpatrick's shop enhances this section of the main road. It is well maintained with a good mix of planting. Both the shop and pub use window boxes for a splash of colour. The small park area around the playground is well maintained. The Ashbourne walkway is a great addition to the community. The stunning roadway from the main road to the village was admired with its overhanging trees and pretty flowers along the walls. Flowers at the pretty stone bridge give a welcoming impression. Around the perimeter of the Community Centre has been tastefully planted. Flower beds throughout add colour and interest.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done for your work on the Ashbourne pond. Where is Harper's Island exactly? We didn't succeed in finding it or a viewing point after driving to the next roundabout. Is a signpost required from the village? Don't forget to mark such items on your map.

We look forward to hearing more about your wildlife survey next time. The main thrust of this category is to determine what wildlife is your locality, then how to raise awareness among the community of what wildlife is on your doorstep. How are you doing this or planning to do this? Some schools are working on their 'biodiversity' theme as part of their green schools programme. In this case, working in conjunction with the local school would be crucial.

Litter Control:

You are commended for your daily and weekly litter picks. The whole village was generally litter free on the day of our visit so well done to all involved. How do you promote litter awareness with the local school? Your efforts to raise awareness through your local mass leaflet are noted. You might consider other channels of communication. Is there a parish website? Have you considered a facebook page? It is great to hear that you have secured the valuable help of a TUS worker to assist in keeping Glounthaune litter free. Is it possible to carry out a local campaign on dog fouling around the time that the new sign goes up near the playground?

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

Well done for making contact with Cork Co Co EAO. The 'Energy usage' project sounds very interesting. Please submit the results next time. Please state here if the school has a green flag or not, what theme they are working on etc. Well done to the post office for holding a second hand book exchange. Please provide more details next time on how you are engaging with the local green schools committee. It is very positive to hear the one of your committee members can act as liaison with the school. As a minimum you should state here the status of the local school in relation to the Green Flag. Does it have a green flag and what stage is it at? There are very close links between this programme and some Tidy Towns categories so you can help each other. Does the school run any walk/cycle to school promotions? This cuts down on your carbon footprint and your traffic! The thrust of this category is how we can help reduce waste in the community by preventing it, then how we can reuse and recycle the remainder. Please have a look at the new guidelines where you should get one or two more ideas to implement for next year. You should also mention any water or energy saving measures, e.g. for watering plants/flowers during summer season.

Tidiness:

Your big efforts to expose your old stone walls and sandstone cliff face are noted. You might consider doing an audit of your signs to see what requires cleaning or repair. You say you cleaned all road signs this year. Weed control is good in most places. Be mindful of excessive use of weedkiller. It is great to clean up your walls and roadsides, just be aware that these areas are often important habitats and food sources for birds and other wildlife.

Residential Areas:

All residential areas were maintained to a high standard with attractive tree planting and green areas. Areas were litter free in general. The 'Highlands' is a lovely residential area, although the name stone is faded. Cois Chuain has a lovely presentation with some good landscaping. The colourful garden across the road was admired. Residential properties in the 'village' were attractive and colourful. There is an attractive terrace heading up the hill from the post office.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Glounthaune is long and linear in layout, which presents its own challenges. You have worked hard to bring a village feel back to Glounthaune. The Ashbourne walkway is a good addition to the community. Approach roads look attractive with well maintained grass verges. These, along with your name signs, help to further define your village boundaries. Recent work carried out to expose the cliff was noted. This area looks very well. There is a lovely footpath along the estuary. The narrow dry bridge was admired.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Glounthaune village. You have completed some interesting projects in recent months and it is giving you positive momentum for present work. Thank you for a fine presentation and we wish you well going forward.