

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glounthaune** Ref: **130**
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **266**
Category: **B** Date(s): **25/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	41
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	33
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	34
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	29
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29
TOTAL MARK	450	266

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Glounthuane is most welcome to the 2014 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your entry form, three-year plan and well illustrated map. Your application exudes a strong sense of action and community involvement and this is excellent. You have a good number at your organising level and do indicate roughly how many other volunteers are on call or help out periodically. You are engaged with a wide array of different agencies and support groups and this is the necessary way to proceed for best results. It is wonderful to read how your participation in Tidy Towns has fostered a sense of local pride and community spirit. You are doing fantastic work and this is visible on the ground. Well done and keep up the good work.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

Your heritage trail was a wonderful initiative but was judged last year, and so unfortunately cannot be awarded more points this year. The other projects listed however are very good. How you promote the use of Irish in the village? The lovely church centre was admired with its stone facade and neat car park. The small grotto here is very well maintained. Well done to the Flower Power florist for its wonderful facade. The restored Tobar was admired on the high road. The beautiful red sandstone church is a fine heritage feature and it was well presented on adjudication day. The clear and interesting heritage signage was admired. 'The Rising Tide' is a formidable feature in this unique location and looks great in its blue livery. Surrounding green areas and picnic seat are spotless. The childcare centre was looking well with its basket of flowers. Fitzpatrick shop and the Great O'Neill were both looking freshly painted and well done to them for their displays of flowers.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Japanese knotweed is a problem along the highways and byways of this area and is one of the most persistent of weeds. Do give details of how this is being treated as it can take a number of years to thoroughly eradicate. Your co-operation with Irish Rail on landscaping areas is commended. Your plans for planting new hedging were admired, unfortunately beech and field maple are not native. As you pointed out elsewhere the abundance of mature trees serves Glounthuane well in a landscaping context. Attractive flower displays were admired along the railway bridge. Planting around the car park at the national school is very effective and well maintained. The playground is an excellent amenity and was very clean on adjudication day. There was evidence of herbicide use on the sea wall and there is really no need for this. It leaves unsightly dead vegetation while also being bad for the environment. Your lovely community garden was admired but didn't get a mention in your application form. The new planting scheme along the railway embankment is excellent and the scale and variety of species use are commended. They will screen this area nicely in time.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fíadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádurtha:

You have a wonderful array of wildlife habitats within your immediate area and its great that you recognise the value of these. Your bird survey really highlights the diversity of coastal wetland birds and you are wished every success with your bird hide project. How can you get your schools involved in raising awareness of these biologically rich areas. Your collaboration with the Clean Coast project is commended. How can you use this to raise awareness of marine conservation issues such as marine litter? The Ashbourne walk is very good and rich in wildlife. Watch out for a number of non-native species here, that only Japanese knotweed but Giant knotweed and American skunk cabbage. It is evident however that you have a control program and well done for this. Formal landscaping should be limited along these banks and a natural vegetation should be allowed to emerge.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

This is an area in which you are excelling and the adjudicator was most impressed with the array of project areas in which you are engaged. Your survey will have engaged those who completed it in thinking about their waste habits. What is required here is a total change of mindset and the abandonment of our disposable culture. Repeatedly driving this message home, as you are doing, will bring about this culture shift in time. The message is keep up this excellent work. The schools achievements in the green flag program are an essential part of this and here is the place to detail these. For helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done for participating in the national spring clean as well as your weekly and daily litter picks. This is the systematic approach that is required to achieve the high standards that are expected in Tidy Towns. You are also commended for the awareness raising exercises that have been undertaken in local schools. Your sign advertising the litter cleanup was admired and certainly is a good way of getting the word out. Two poles behind the boundary wall of the church centre are empty and should be removed. Empty wooden boards nailed to are redundant wooden pole should also be taken down. Two more empty poles were noted across the road from the post office car park. If possible older traffic cones should be fished out of the mud along with other debris at the estuary. Perhaps the very large Transport 21 sign has served its function and could now be removed. Glounthuane is a very tidy area with no major issues of note. Litter control was very good on adjudication day and well done for this. Some beer cans had been discarded in the wetland and these are awkward to reach but should nevertheless be fished out.

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

The Highlands is a wonderful estate of attractive homes. The large green area to the front is well maintained and colourful planting was admired at its entrance. Planting directly in the ground however is preferable to planting in pots as it requires less maintenance. Boundary wall capping needs to be painted at the apartment block beside the Great O'Neill.

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

The repair job on the church wall was admired. An approach from Cork, coming of the N25, the astonishing level of Japanese knotweed infestation is apparent. Do liaise with the NRA on how this can be dealt with. Verges on approach are very neatly trimmed and create a good impression. A directional sign for Glounthuane in the centre of Glounthuane may cause some confusion. While road surfacing is good it would be nice to see a safe footpath linking the various elements of the town. Pedestrian facilities could certainly be improved at the train station where there is no pedestrian crossing to reach the footpath on the other side of the road.