

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glounthaune** Ref: **130**
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **276**
Category: **B** Date(s): **14/07/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	41	42
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	33	35
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	34	36
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	29	31
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	14	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29	30
TOTAL MARK	450	266	276

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Glounthaune is most welcome to the 2015 SuperValu Tidy Towns competition. Thank you for your application, map, plan and supporting documentation. Your committee of ten members are actively involved in organising activities for the developing and enhancing of the village. You engage with all the relevant agencies and businesses that provide you with support and assistance you require to develop your projects. There is good interaction within the community and your means of communication are many. There is also good involvement with the schools. The schools support is important in creating awareness to the wider community. The school are to be commended on their green flag status. Your participation in the competition has created a greater sense of pride in the community and has contributed to developing many projects and enhancing the village. Your participation in the competition is important to the Tidy Towns unit and you are wished continued success.

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

The Church and Car park were very well presented. The Post Office and the Flower shop added great colour to the streetscape. Fitzpatrick's Shop and The Great O'Neill looked bright and colourful and indeed bustling with activity which is positive. The train station has bright colourful containers of plants and the information board on wildlife was noted. The station house was also noted, pity this splendid building looked unoccupied. Crossing the landscaped bridge into the old village of Glounthaune was delightful. The bright blue of the Rising Tide was welcoming. The Community Centre which was the old school brought this area to life with its colourful floral displays. The fine amenity of the playground splendidly presented in such a tranquil setting was admired. The Heritage information board was read with interest. The green area across from the Rising Tide with containers was noted. The adjudicator felt that a landscaped ground bed would be more enhancing here instead of landscaped containers. Also the plastic pot at the bridge is not in keeping with the stone of the bridge. The use of Irish language in signage is applauded.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The village of Glounthaune is bordered by the sea, mature trees and stone walls and hedging. What you have done is complement this by planting long stretches of hedging, trees and landscaped beds. This type of planting is recommended by the Tidy Towns unit. Planting of year round seasonal plants that bring colour are more effective and more cost saving. Ground planting where possible should be considered. Containers and hanging baskets bring that extra colour where needed. The use of uniform containers is also advisable. The landscaping along the bridge on the way into the old village was admired. Many colourful landscaped beds were noted and admired. Tubs of trees along the station road need attention.

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

Glounthaune has an abundance of wildlife habitats within its boundaries and there are also vast areas of wetland. Newly landscaped areas are all planted with wildlife in mind. Japanese knotweed is a menace but can be eradicated if professionally treated as you are doing. The newly planted hedging when mature will provide this road with shelter and create more corridors for wildlife. Do you organise events that celebrate the wildlife wonders of the village? Many commuters travel daily on the trains but may be oblivious to their surroundings. The children's playground is situated in superb surroundings with nature lurking around every corner. Hosting an event in this area with children and parents would create an awareness of your wonderful wildlife habitats and natural amenities.

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

This is a category that causes problems for some groups. You are achieving good results in all areas by working with the schools who have gained knowledge in waste management as part of their green school status. The workshop on water and energy held in March, how well was this attended or have there been savings in the community as a result? You would need to work with a number of homes, look at the type of waste that they are producing and see how this can be reduced. The same study can be done with energy and water. Workshops are good but unless the advice is implemented and tangible results are evident there is no way of knowing if waste is been reduced.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done on creating awareness on litter by your participation in the County anti-litter campaign. Involving schools and the wider community by displaying posters of the story of litter in the schools and shops is also creating awareness. Controlling and combatting litter has to be a community effort and should not be left to the committee alone to address. You have done good work involving the wider community and the results are tangible. Graffiti on the Eircom building was noted. Weed growth at the base of the wall at the station was also noted. Well done to the clean-up team who tackled coastal boundary and to the Coca Cola Coast clean.

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

The village is fortunate to have such an array of well-presented houses. Cois Chluain was admired with lovely landscaping; the pleasant smelling lavender was particularly admired. Across the dry bridge some attractive houses were noted with lovely neat colourful gardens. All homes are presented to a very high standard with splendid landscaping. Hanging baskets and planted containers are added for extra colour. The residents are to be commended on the presentation of their homes. The children's playground was also visited and this is a splendid amenity in a superb setting.

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

The approach roads were well presented with good landscaping at village signs and nicely trimmed grass verges giving a good first impression on entering the village. The entrance road by the station has the superb Godwit statue towering over the road on a fine stone plinth. Many area of colourful landscaping and long stretches of hedging were admired, however the herbicide spraying of beech hedging was not admired. It is unfortunate that there are invasive plants which your committee have acknowledged and started to work against. The bridge is a lovely feature with appropriate landscaping as you enter the old village. Gates on approach roads should all be painted a uniform colour if possible.

Concluding Remarks:

Glounthaune was a splendid village to visit and adjudicate. Your seaside location provides you with natural amenities which you have developed to a high standard without interfering with the natural surroundings. Keep up the good work and you are wished continued success.