

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glounthaune** Ref: **130**
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **285**
Category: **B** Date(s): **13/06/2016**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2015 | Mark Awarded 2016 |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Community Involvement & Planning | 60 | 42 | 43 |
| Built Environment and Streetscape | 50 | 35 | 36 |
| Landscaping and Open Spaces | 50 | 36 | 38 |
| Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities | 50 | 31 | 33 |
| Sustainable Waste and Resource Management | 50 | 15 | 16 |
| Tidiness and Litter Control | 90 | 55 | 57 |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas | 50 | 32 | 32 |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes | 50 | 30 | 30 |
| TOTAL MARK | 450 | 276 | 285 |

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

This adjudicator has only been in Glounthaune once and that was some years ago: the change in that time has been conspicuous and impressive, though it may not appear to be so to those who live there and are doing the work. This village appeals in a number of significant ways - its situation, its history, its maintenance, its development and the care in which all issues are clearly considered. The Plan which takes you from this year until 2018 is notable because it is no simple wish list but each project is envisaged by year, so that annual deadlines are in place to aim for. The overall impression is that this Committee is very well organised. Thank you for the Community News Letter with its informative pictures. The 2015 Calendar is first class. You are supported from an unusual number of public and private sources.

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

The typically-Cork Gothic church in contrasting local stone in its central location is superbly presented. This adjudicator was much taken by the clean lines of the comparatively new Church Centre. It was noted that the charming Community Centre had been repainted. At the Railway Station the pretty 19c barge-boards are seriously in need of attention before they deteriorate. It is hard to know if the waterside village should be considered under Streetscape or Residential – probably both. The Rising Tide, with the model yacht prominently displayed, catches the attention most favourably. The area of Fitzpatrick's and the Great O'Neill is well looked after, with the well selected and very extensive herbaceous border opposite. The Heavenly Hair, the Post Office and the Flower Pot all contribute to the overall sense of neatness.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Planting throughout is both detailed and far-reaching, from smart containers to walkways, greens and playgrounds. Rustic tables and chairs and the railway memories of Queenstown Junction at Craig's Field, are most pleasing; the children's playground is colourful and clean; the outdoor gym is an interesting innovation; planting at the rockery here needs to assert itself. The selection of herbs, lavender and marigolds in the enclosed beds is thoughtful. The turquoise and white pumps are the height of elegance. What this adjudicator enjoyed most was the informal layout of shrubs and wayside flowers on the road from the village up to the cross-roads. Are the dainty floral decorations on the parapet of the bridge a bit too much? – no, because of the expertise and the care taken in their preparation. It was encouraging to read that you plant bulbs for spring showing. Well done on the attention given to Caherlag graveyard for a location so far out of the village and good to see the ancient yews so well looked after and to read the enthralling account of history given on the public noticeboard. The planting by the Dry Bridge will show its worth before long; the traditional dry-stone wall nearby was noted because it may be one of many seen throughout the country that had become overgrown and is now revealed.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

The Ashbourne Pond, and its secluded walkway parallel to the main road, was enjoyed; at the time of the visit waterlilies were in bloom. It was interesting to learn what you have done to reduce algae growth. Wild flowers proliferate here. The bird hide on Harper's Island was not visited because the adjudicator could not find the way! and passers-by didn't seem to know. Thank you, therefore, for the photographs which show it is no mere shack but a piece of sophisticated design. Several estuarine birds were seen. (In previous years you have probably supplied a complete inventory of birds.) The Kiddies' Eco Trail must make for enjoyable and instructive outings. Good luck for the new Duck House. Well done on your time and expenditure on the eradication of Japanese knotweed.

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

The amount of recycling done, as described in your submission, is exemplary, such as the creation of outdoor furniture from waste wood. Thank you for the picture of a well-made book-case for second-hand books. The activities initiated by the Men's Shed in regard to several types of wood manufactures is much admired and also the rainwater harvesting unit – not seen but read of. It was also useful to read about electricity-saving made possible by new LED light installations. Congratulations on the Muintir na Tíre eco-friendly award. Christmas-tree recycling was favourably noted in your submission. A green flag or flags was not seen at the school – they may not have been flying: if they have not yet been achieved they – and what they indicate – are considered to be very important under this heading. Children carry home the message of what they learn in the Green Flag programme.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It is good to read that you take part in the national Coast Clean-up and that your voluntary helpers are out on regular litter-picks. The litter awareness sign is first class. You may well ask Who litters our roadsides? But you do not answer this quite satisfactorily, and no one can. Who litters? It is always 'passers-by'! It is unfortunate that young people should be in the position of having to clean up after less civic-minded people, but it is admirable that they should trouble to do so. Have you initiated prosecutions? - in some centres well-publicised fines have had an effect, for a time. Very little weed growth was seen, and hardly any graffiti.

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

The 19c waterside houses are charming, many of their gardens beautifully kept up, spilling out on to the roadside. One waterside home with a proliferation of herbaceous flowers and substantial potted geraniums in was particular admired. The pleasant homes of Highlands, with their splendid view; Cois Cuain, so nicely laid out and well maintained; the Woods promising well; and Johnstown making the most of its spacious green and mature timber, all contribute to a sense of pride of place. Apartments opposite the Railway Station are a bit overpowering in this context but they are well looked after.

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

The imaginative name signs caught the attention very favourably. A new footpath was noted in the vicinity of Fitzpatrick's shop. The carpark and set-down area at the School is neat and tidy. Road surfaces are good.

Concluding Remarks:

Glounthaune in all its enterprises maintains a widespread effort, new initiatives are ubiquitous and no task seems to be insurmountable. A truly inspirational place to visit.