

# Tidy Towns Competition 2021

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Glounthaune - An Gleanntán</b>	Ref: <b>130</b>
County: <b>Cork(South)</b>	Mark: <b>331</b>
Category: <b>B</b>	Date(s): <b>29/08/2021</b>

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2021</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	48
Streetscape & Public Places	60	43
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	44
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	41
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>331</b>

### Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Fáilte chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu 2021. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn. Go raibh maith agaibh as ucht bhur dtacaíocht le linn na paindéime. Lean leis an dea-obair  
Thank you for the comprehensive all in one online entry form and all the ancillary material in support of the entry such as 3 year plan and relevant maps.

The list of projects under the various category headings is pretty impressive and it's a pity that many of these cannot be visited as per the usual adjudication process but we are where we are because of the restrictive times of the last few years.

Well done to you as a group for your interactive involvement with the local community during the worst periods of the Covid restrictions.

It's trying times for TT committees and adjudicators alike but this adjudicator will endeavour to judge in a fair and objective manner based on what is submitted in your entry form.

Glounthane no An Gleanntan would be seen as a large village if one can recall from my last visit which was a good number of years ago and if a GAA fan one would associate it with Erins Own GAA club.

Your committee structure is good and having a core of 18 plus volunteers to call on is a big bonus in carrying out your work activities.

The list of community activities outside of your own work that you are involved in is notable.

Similarly the number of public bodies, development agencies, local businesses and other local organisations that help you by way of funding and sponsorship indicates that your work is very much appreciated and of course this is very much reflected in the marks attained over the years in this competition.

Well done also on your success in other National Competitions such as Muintir Na Tire Pride in Our Community Award.

The 2019 report referred to a number of outreach activities, an excellent description, that you were involved in and obviously these have continued even under the restrictive confines of Covid.

Just accessed your excellent web presence and it is very inviting and full of pertinent information so well done to those entrusted with its upkeep.

Other methods of communication are a mix of the tried and trusted with a cross section of the newer social media platforms which when used for constructive purposes are excellent.

One notes that you haven't forgotten the oldest form of communication of all – word of mouth.

Interaction with the local National School and Presentation College Cork is noted and these relationships have fostered an interest in subject areas such as bio diversity.

The National school are to be commended on their Green School Flag successes.

Congratulations on getting substantial funding in collaboration with Birdwatch Ireland to develop a nature trail and provide bird hides on Harpers Island.

You have been associated with the competition since the 60s with a rest period in between and your performance year on year is very praiseworthy.

Thank you for the positive endorsement of the competition and the adjudicator has taken note of all the other activities that you have mentioned under "your work contributing to your community" but space does not permit an elongated comment.

The extensive photo collection of activities under this category were appreciated by the adjudicator and well done to the compilers of this collective.

An additional mark is awarded for your efforts in this category.

At this point just an introduction to the SDG Act Local & Think Global Programme which you are probably familiar with ;

The Sustainable Development Goals are at the heart of the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

These goals address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change and other key environmental issues. In 2021, Tidy Towns has adopted these goals and has integrated these into the competition which now asks participating groups to demonstrate which goals their projects and actions help to meet.

### **Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:**

The 2019 report under this category gave an outstanding description of the village based on the onsite visit and a visual intake of what the streetscape looked like and the planting arrangements hedgerows and linkages to various parts of the village and its perimeters .

Unfortunately this adjudicator doesn't have the benefit of a visit so one has to base all comments on your inputs coupled with photographic evidence-not the most satisfactory of ways but it is what it is.

The photographic evidence of your work helps to get a feel for the projects that you are involved in and in collaboration with other partners.

There is a large body of work undertaken in this and indeed across all categories and the adjudicator has examined all in detail but the nature of this year's adjudication does not allow for extensive comments.

Feel assured that your work hasn't been undervalued in any way.

The adjudicator would have assumed that Project 2.1 would have been better suited in the next category Green Spaces but it is in reality a cross over between both.

You are to be commended in getting Cork County Council to make some necessary footpath extensions in the village

What is the story with the owner of the Station House it's not clear from your comment or the photograph whether the owner has agreed to allow improvements to the property?

The new map of the village and surrounds looks to be an attractive and informative addition to the village for both local and visitor alike.

Some excellent work on the pedestrian and cycle lanes in the village as described in the narrative and photographs. The adjudicator remembers Fitzpatrick's of old and the transformation in a year, considering the times we have been living in, is quite staggering.

Were the town lands name stones not mentioned in the 2019 report or are these additional ones any way they look very attractive and of the right size.

The various other works under the Cork County Village Enhancement Scheme have been well noted by the adjudicator.

Your committee has been well active in getting infrastructural improvements done in this category and an additional mark has been awarded for that.

### **Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:**

This is a category that you have done well in over the last few years and the works outlined in your submission are of a practical nature.

The adjudicator was impressed with your approach to ensuring that what is in place is looked after appropriately and seen at its best year round.

Too many places allow shrub beds to over grow, flowers in planters and hanging baskets to fade as seasons ends, and often don't look after young saplings so well especially if planted away from the core area of a village or town.

The following appealed to adjudicator from the supporting photographs;

Craigs Field picnic tables that can be used by locals and by visitors passing by, they look to be of sturdy design and are sited in a popular location.

Well done on the planting of yellow rattle or riantus minor in a number of locations as it will allow other wildflowers to prosper.

Some nice landscape upgrades of various areas of the village were noted particularly at the Railway Heritage Garden.

The new planted area on the road side of the railway fence opposite the church looks to be a major undertaking and is a testament to GTT ,the local Men's shed and indeed the local residents who gave valuable input to the project.

You are to be commended for protecting 550 native Irish trees from potential damage from rabbits by putting on protective sleeves a rather onerous task one would think.

The other planting options were noted by the adjudicator who was particularly impressed with the carving of the limestone plinth into a seat this could be considered under the Sustainability as well so well done to the stone carver in question.

An additional mark has been awarded.

### **Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:**

The input in this category is of a practical nature and the adjudicator was very impressed with Community Biodiversity Action Plan for all of Glounthaune the first draft of which was produced a few months back. The stakeholders involved are GTT and the Community Foundation Ireland Community Biodiversity Action Plans scheme.

It is noted that a detailed habitat survey of the designated area was carried out professionally in 2020 with the aim of recording all the biodiversity species of the area, to identify all areas of ecological importance and to list the threats to habitat loss posed by development, technology and human activities.

This was an excellent undertaking and it encapsulates very succinctly that you have a great understanding of what is needed under the guidelines of this category.

The Nature Trail Development at Harpers Island in conjunction with Glounthaune Men's Shed and the Glounthaune Community Association whereby a 2km Nature Trail was commenced in July 2019 and completed in April 2000 funded by a Cork Co Council via the Outdoor Recreation Investment Scheme is another example of a major Nature related project that you have been involved in that will benefit future generations to come.

It's a nice legacy to leave to the local inhabitants.

For these alone you are awarded an additional mark.

### **Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:**

This is a category that has created quite a lot of unease for committees around the country when it was first introduced but since it was re defined it has been embraced by groups as reflected by the entries over the last three years.

It has pretty straightforward guidelines that asks groups to show their activities help make their town or village more sustainable and thus more environmentally friendly.

From your input you clearly demonstrate an understanding of what Sustainability is all about.

The Glounthaune Sustainable Energy Community established June 2019 is actually the of its kind that this adjudicator has come across over the last few years so well done on being involved with the other stakeholders.

The benefits to individual householders that participated are pretty obvious and you are wished well with the continuation of this project.

Excellent use of disused stone from rock fall which was dislodged from a local cliff area to construct a boundary wall that was part of a stone based elongated flower bed.

The second hand book shop, saving yellow rattle seeds and especially the use of waste saw dust to use as mulch on planting arrangements are all excellent measures under this category.

Well done to all involved and an additional mark is awarded for your endeavours.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

The amount of diverse work that you have undertaken under both the headings General Tidiness and Litter Control is quite something particularly given the restrictions that your members were under because of Covid.

The adjudicator is not going to comment in too much detail except to say that an additional 2 marks are awarded based on the photographic evidence alone.

There are a few items that appealed to him some for quirky reasons.

As a dog lover one is aware of the near scourge of the pandemic – dog poo and owners with no civic pride who wouldn't clean up after their precious pooches.

One was taken with the Cork Anti Litter Poster "Paws for Thought" and the anti litter banner "This Place is for you"

You as committee have put in place a number of initiatives that help to make sure that there is an ongoing awareness among the community to keep Glounthane both tidy and as litter free as possible.

The various projects have been noted and it is good to see that the younger generation are being actively encouraged to play their part as well.

Well done to the community as a whole for buying into the process and there were more than a few happy faces pictured doing chores such as grass cutting and litter picking.

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

From the pictures that you have supplied the village looks in splendid condition and the presentation of homesteads and gardens is just superb.

Yes it would be good if an adjudication visit could have taken place as this is a category that benefits from a walk around and comments made in line with the guidelines of the category.

The visual enhancement and character preservation of Glounthane is the main objective of the GTT and you are helped in achieving this by your local partners such as the Mens Shed give unstinting support in helping with the upkeep of stone walls and communal areas etc.

Some of the houses on the village street looked very well maintained and credit is due to their owners.

The planters and village pump were both admired as was the garden outside the community centre with the impressive heritage information panel in front.

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

The 2019 report commented that approach roads into the village generally looked well with neat hedges and lovely stone walls.

The input and pictures that you have supplied suggest that much the same comment could be made in 2021.

Under normal circumstances the adjudicator would do all the entrances and make comment so this year one is reliant on what you have submitted so thank you for the excellent set of photographs.

Some additional new work has been done upgrading verges and grass margins as one enters the village.

The stone sculpture on the L3004 entrance was admired as well as the planting of beech hedging on the same road.

The stone wall repairs at the Dry Bridge has been also noted.

The adoption of the Godwit, as depicted in the sculpture, as your logo is an interesting fact because of the birds association with Harpers Island.

Some very fine work on the stone wall to village entrance also enhanced by some prudent planting.

The four photo collage suggest that road surfaces and verges are in good condition.

An additional mark is awarded on foot of the extensive input in this category.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

It's been quite awhile since this adjudicator has been to Glounthane and on foot of what you have submitted a long overdue return visit is on the personal agenda.

GTT is a very proactive group who have worked tirelessly for the betterment of the village and you are to be commended for this dedication to the cause.

You have done well in the competition to date and you are wished well for the future.