

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GLENEALY**
County : **WICKLOW**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18
Landscaping	40	20
The Built Environment	40	23
Litter Control	40	26
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	171

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the new format of the Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your detailed questionnaire, map and correspondence together with your 3 - 5 year plan. We look forward to the submission next year of a more detailed plan. The adjudicators appreciate the difficulties encountered by the Tidy Towns Committee but the high mark achieved by Glenealy to date must be matched by a greater commitment to each heading under the adjudication. In your five year plan, the adjudicators particularly welcome the development of amenity areas. Try to encourage a more community effort and involvement with the County Council and local businesses. Also, try to get the children involved with specific projects. In reviewing the new competition, account has been taken of all the efforts of all towns in County Wicklow and marks have been judged accordingly to the efforts noted over a broad number of categories.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is nice to see your development of a farm walk near Tedcastles. Well done. This will be nice once completed. Also, it would be nice to develop a wildlife area adjacent to the Church of Ireland. Having said that there are a number of areas where opportunities exist; for example, tree planting was noted at the house opposite Ryans. Well done. It was nice to see rabbits in the graveyard. It was also nice to see wild flowers; for example, woodbine in hedging, as well as Rhododendrons. Try to encourage as much wildlife as possible. There is potential for greater nature conservation, particularly if your proposed plans come to fruition. A good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats in your catchment area and see what species of animals, birds and plants etc. these attract. Why not invite your local environmental experts and groups to advise you and provide you with the specialist information you require. Children also have an active role to play in this as well. Finally, try to avoid the use of weed killers, for example, in the GAA car park which takes from the overall appearance.

LANDSCAPING

It is felt that more of an effort is needed here, in particular to grassed areas along the main roads. The grassed area outside Kerry Foods was very well maintained. Well done. Some nice stone walls were noted; perhaps these could be cleaned up, or build up the wall opposite Kellys Sawmills. The weeds in the GAA car park took from the overall appearance and this was not helped by the use of weed killers. Work was noted at the graveyard; try to provide facilities for the dumping of grass and flowers. Proper landscaping of the island near the Glenealy Lodge should be tackled. Also, the area by the gate near Ballyfree was untidy and weeds were a problem here. Finally, a very good effort was noted in maintaining the bank to the right hand side of the Glenealy Lodge. Well done in this regard.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There was a mixed presentation here. The adjudicators appreciate that there are some difficulties with a number of premises. Having said that, the OBriens sign needed to be painted up; a painting would also help Carrick Garden Sheds. A nice sign was noted at the entrance to Ballytree House. The school was okay. It was nice to see that the hall by the GAA grounds had been painted up. Well done. Weeds were still a bit of a problem here. Ballyfree was very well presented, with its entrances and grounds. Tedcastles was litter free. It is felt that more of an effort could be made at the Wicklow Garden Centre, the stud fencing could be better maintained outside. The Parish Church was very nice indeed and the Glenealy Lodge had been painted up. The corrugated roof at Ryans could be painted up. Finally, near the Church of Ireland, the smaller church, there were a number of windows broken

LITTER CONTROL

Generally, quite good. It was nice to see that children are the backbone of your litter control plans. There are plenty of litter bins noted throughout, and very little litter was in evidence. Small amounts were noted outside Ballyfree, but quite small. The worst area being near the bend on the Ashford road by the sign for

Christmas Tree Farm - this is also an area that could be landscaped.

TIDINESS

The bad surfacing and lack of work on open spaces take from the overall appearance. Having said that, the resurfacing of the road does improve the appearance. The verges by the Telecom sub station by the Glenealy sign take from the appearance of the approach road. The use of weed killers too is unsightly. Weeds were noted on the left hand side on the Rathnew approach. Footpaths also needed some attention where works had been carried out, but allowances have been made for this. A window was missing from the telephone kiosk. Some weeds were noted to the back of the turning area of the Glenealy Lodge. The area near Glenealy Garage also needs to be tackled.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Some good individual efforts were noted this year, for example, next to OBriens and the house opposite with good use of flower baskets. On the left hand side on the approach from Rathdrum a nice house was noted. Within the residential parks, Gleann Chill was very neat and tidy, well done. Try to perhaps build up a wall outside on the bank. At Ballyfree Crescent Estate resurfacing of the road is needed, name plates would also be a welcome improvement. The green was relatively neat and tidy but the grass was a bit of a problem along by the fencing on the perimeter. In Carrig View Estate, again, a name plate would be nice. The roads and paths were also in need of resurfacing and watch the weeds at kerbing and also in the turning circles. It is nice to see the good use of colour in the new housing development. Allowances were made for this until work was completed. Try to replace the wooden fencing in some cases where it is broken. Two houses by Glenealy Garden Sheds could be brightened up by painting. The adjudicators also noted an excellent presentation at the railway bridge with excellent use of flowers.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the approach road from Rathnew, the Glenealy sign really does need to be replaced. Further in, weeds were noted on the left hand side. The resurfaced road does improve the appearance somewhat. Approaching Glenealy from Rathdrum, the flowers are somewhat lost at the sign, gravel was also dumped at the sign. At the Deputy's Pass junction, the grass had only got a rough cutting and grass was growing in the shrubbery at the Parnell Drive sign on the right hand side. Also the verges had a very rough cutting - this approach could be improved. Very nice Beech Hawthorn hedging was noted also on the approach road from Rathdrum, but grass had not been cut on the left hand side and the right hand side had only received a rough cutting. Approaching from Ashford, there was just a rough cutting of verges - more of an effort could be made here.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The adjudicators feel, in light of the new judging criteria for the competition, a stronger positive attitude is needed in a combined effort, not just by the Tidy Towns Committee but by all the residents and businesses in the village. Also, try to incorporate the assistance of children into your plans which will help create awareness amongst them and help in litter control. They also have a role to play in the wildlife area.

SECOND ADJUDICATION

Some consideration might be given to the development of a wildlife garden on the undeveloped green site located near the Glenealy Lodge. Your plans for the wildlife walk are commendable. Don't forget to give details of the wildlife to be encountered on small plaques or interpretative panels. Landscaping at the church carpark and at the bridge is most effective. The large carpark of the hall located opposite the graveyard might be landscaped also. Choose trees and shrubs rather than bedding plants. The plastic awnings on the Glenealy Lodge premises detract from an otherwise excellent presentation of this building. The dated Lotto sign on Ryan's premises might be exchanged for the more modern slimline type of Lotto sign. Inappropriate weed growth was noted in a number of areas. Try to eliminate this. The

carpark across from the Glenealy Lodge is very poorly surfaced and needs a better definition along its roadside edge. Some items of street furniture, such as the litter bin near Ryan's, need to be upgraded. Other litter bins however look well. Good impression is generated by the appearance of the village. Well done! Devote attention to the problem areas outlined above.