

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GLENMORE**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23	--
The Built Environment	40	24	--
Landscaping	40	24	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	--
Litter Control	40	28	--
Tidiness	20	13	--
Residential Areas	30	20	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	--
General Impression	10	7	--
TOTAL MARK	300	177	--

Glenmore, Co. Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

We welcome Glenmore Village to the Tidy Towns Competition and wish them every success in it. It is encouraging to note the amount of help you are receiving from your Local Authority, FAS and the Community which is absolutely essential if Glenmore is to progress in the Competition. The adjudicator had never visited Glenmore Village before and, having read through your comments on the application form, was agreeably surprised at the amount you have achieved in a very short time. Congratulations to all concerned. Success in the Tidy Towns Competition does not come overnight and is generally the result of carefully planned work carried out over a 3-5 year period in conjunction with your Local Authority, other agencies and the Community. The plan however is critical to this effort. There is no need to commission this from a consultant it can be done in conjunction with your Local Authority and the wider local community. Identify what you can realistically do over a 5 year period within your physical and financial resources and plan to do a certain amount each year.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The School, Church and graveyard looked well on adjudication day as did the Health Centre. The Community Hall and its surrounding area was excellent. Your comments regarding dereliction was noted. You do have a problem in this respect but nevertheless the work which you have done on softening the effects of this dereliction is to be commended. It is very difficult, in a small community, to know what to do about derelict sites. Perhaps an approach to the owners with a definite proposal for their use might have an effect. Also, the Local Authority do have powers in such matters. The stone cottage beyond the Glen Bar is a lovely building which dominates The Square and could be restored to become a major feature of the village. The single story cottages in The Square were beautifully presented on adjudication day and are also a feature of that area. The large industrial premises on the edge of the village also looked well and was presented in a reasonably tidy manner, bearing in mind the commercial activity which must take place there.

LANDSCAPING

What you have done in terms of planting has been excellent. In particular the new planting at the Community Hall area was noted as well as your many colourful flower beds, tubs, hanging baskets and window boxes. In spite of the problems which you are having all of this has created a lovely impression in the village. The area around the Glen Bar is notable in this respect as is the work done on the Riverbank. The new bollards certainly create a lovely effect in The Square and that whole area was very well presented on adjudication day. Congratulations to all concerned. For the future try to identify other areas where judicious tree and shrub planting might take place. The emphasis here is on the word judicious as

to plant too many trees or shrubs only leads to clutter. In the case of shrubs consider those which will give you some colour on an all-year-round basis. In any planting programme please do consult with your Local Authority, Coillte or if you have a local person who is knowledgeable on such matters please do consult with them.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is noted that you have not been able to carry out a specific work under this heading so therefore a nominal mark is being given in this, your first year. This is a comparatively new category in the competition with the emphasis on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats and the environment. Woodlands, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, grass margins, open spaces, graveyards and walls are important habitats and your Committee should try to identify those which exist in your area and then determine the appropriate action to be taken to conserve and enhance them. Guidelines in the Tidy Towns brochure offer other suggestions as to the types of initiatives you might undertake. If there is a local wildlife expert or a member of your Community with experience in this area on your Committee or in the locality, please do avail of them. The area around the Bridge and the River is an ideal place for a project under this heading which will yield you additional marks next year.

LITTER CONTROL

There was hardly any disposable litter to be seen on the streets in Glenmore on adjudication day. However there was some in and around the stream which took away from what was otherwise a wonderful setting. This is an area which needs constant monitoring particularly during the adjudication period.

TIDINESS

The village was presented in a very neat and tidy manner on adjudication day - the one exception again perhaps being the area of the stream which had some loose debris in the locality and also some evidence of waste material on the riverbanks.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Glenmore does not have very many residences but those that are there were very well presented. Some have very nice gardens. As already mentioned the terraced cottages in The Square are remarkable. In a small community it is important that the owners of either commercial or residential premises present their properties in the best possible manner. It is noted from your entry form that this is the case in Glenmore.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces and pavings were very good. Parking areas around the Church and in the village were very well presented. Approach roads need constant monitoring. Adjudication normally takes place from either within the speed limit signs or the village nameplates, whichever you opt for. When cutting verges nowadays the thinking is that they should not be cut right back to the wall or hedge but a certain amount of grassed area should be

left for the propagation of wildflowers. In other words, only cut half way back from the verge of the road to the hedge or wall for this purpose.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Glenmore looks a well ordered and attractive village. There is still a lot of work to be done but a magnificent start has been made. Planning is all important and the adjudicator looks forward to seeing further progress in 1998.