

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glounthaune**

Ref: **105**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **173**

Category: **B**

Date: **24/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	
The Built Environment	40	23	
Landscaping	40	21	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	
Litter Control	40	17	
Tidiness	20	15	
Residential Areas	30	17	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	
General Impression	10	6	
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>173</b>	

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The information provided with the entry form was most helpful in giving an overall understanding of the origin, present state and future developments of this unusual village. The Glounthaune development plan is a very comprehensive analysis and provider of direction for the future. It covers a wide variety of aspects to take the village to the year 2007. The newspaper cuttings enclosed, together with the documented list of achievements and itemised plans, are a credit to the committee and reflect a great spirit of interest and enthusiasm.

### The Built Environment:

The church stands very proudly at the junction and looks very well. The shops up the road from the church are well presented. The Rising Tide is an important landmark and appears well with its outdoor furniture basking in the magnificent view. The stonewalls are an important part of the village texture and the wall along the way between the terraced houses and the shops is attractive as is the stonework of the bridge itself. The buildings at the junction premises and Fitzpatrick's look very well presented. The old school house building looks well and forms an integral part of the village.

### Landscaping:

The Japanese knotweed is causing considerable difficulty as can be seen from the roadside invasion. Efforts to control this are noted. It is known to be very persistent and a continued effort is needed for success. The trees by the roadside are maturing well. The area behind the church carpark is nicely planted with good coverage being achieved on the bank. The entrance to The Highlands is attractively planted, as are the spaces within the estate. Individual gardens contribute greatly to the overall landscape of the village. The entrance to the presbytery is also well tended, as are the church grounds. The terraced houses alongside and opposite the Rising Tide are nicely presented and give a pleasant atmosphere in that area. The use of containerised summer bedding plants adds a sparkle of colour. There is a good bank of planting to separate the children's play area from the rest of that part of the village. Road verges are nicely maintained without being over manicured.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The estuary offers marvelous recreational and environmental awareness appreciation opportunities. All information that is available should be easily accessible so that people can gain well from their time at the estuary. Projects to gather information and display this would be most useful. Please consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for more assistance in this matter.

### **Litter Control:**

The efforts described in the material included with the entry form show that there is a serious attitude to litter collection and organisation in the village. Unfortunately there was some litter noted outside in the village - particularly at the entrance to field where the children's play area is located - this was not necessarily litter resulting from children as cigarette packet was among the litter. Continued vigilance is needed to keep the village litter free.

### **Tidiness:**

In a village of such small size attention to detail is all-important. The weed growth on the concrete outside the Post Office area is unattractive. The boundary walls and fences to the roadside at the terraced houses (above the shops and just below the bridge) appear very uncoordinated and varied in standard. A more unified approach would help here.

### **Residential Areas:**

The varied style of housing is interesting – from the terraced housing near the Rising Sun and those near the bridge, to the houses of the Highland Estate and some single houses along the roadsides. As outlined in the documentation provided, the village and surrounds are used frequently as a dormitory for workers in Cork City. This can have an impact on community spirit so hopefully the committee can recruit people from all sectors of the community.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The main road divides the village at present, which presents difficulties of cohesion. The narrow road to the Rising Sun area is dangerous with the sharp bend and little scope for pedestrians – perhaps a separate pedestrian way would be helpful. The surface of the roads through the Rising Sun areas are very poor with many potholes having been temporarily filled. Hopefully some lobbying will result in an entirely new surfacing being put in place.

### **General Impression:**

The interest and enthusiasm as expressed in the entry form material clearly indicates that the committee is determined to develop the village well and signs are showing this progress is in place. The railway line also adds to the village. The playground and field are fine facilities as well as the walkways.

