

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glounthaune** Ref: **130**
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **228**
Category: **B** Date(s): **24/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	228

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you very much for the filled up entry form, maps of the area and the interesting support material. I note you have 16 committee members and there are five sub-areas who organise their own weekly clean ups. You are getting support from a number of agencies and you are communicating well with the local communities. Your support for the schools is worthwhile, and I note you are encouraging them with the green flag status. It is positive to find that you have increased voluntary support from participation in the Tidy Towns competition. I read your plan and you have very interesting projects in the pipeline to maintain and improve the area. The St Patrick's day parade is a great social occasion.

The Built Environment:

Fitzpatrick's shop, The Junction and The Rising Tide are very well kept business premises. The three business houses, PO, Flower Power and Dan O'Connell & Co are well presented, but the old railway station looked poorly. I had some difficulty in finding the school and felt that a few small finger signs could be erected to point to the school. However, it was well worth while to find it as I admired a well kept building with a nice stone wall to the front, an excellent car park and some very attractive shrubs and trees. It was great to see the new green flag outside – well done. But I would award first prize in this category to the Sacred Heart Catholic Church which has defining architectural qualities and is visually striking with distinguishing features of landscaping, wrought iron entrance gates and surrounded by a great stone wall. The little Grotto nestles peacefully amongst wonderful shrubs in a good car park, but amongst the shrubs I observed a few volunteer trees that could be removed.

Landscaping:

You have achieved excellent results with your efforts in landscaping, especially at the school, the church and the nearby car park. There were some attractive tubs of flowers and shrubs. But there is a natural landscape

in Glentaune with all those wonderful mature trees and traditional shone walls.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There is a nice small circular walk neat the children's playground adjacent to the mud flats. The children's playground is a wonderful amenity in this space and it was great to see so many children enjoying themselves in the fresh air. I note you have some interesting plans in this section. There is an abundance of wildlife all around Glentaune and I observed a few different birds in the mud flats. You could enlist the services of some people that have an interest in outdoor pursuits to assist you with wildlife matters.

Litter Control:

It is good to find that you participate in the national spring clean up and in the County Council annual litter challenge. Some litter was seen near the busy shop, but not outside it and some more was strewn at the bring centre, but these instances can be caused by passing traffic.

Waste Minimisation:

I inspected the 4 bins across from the railway station and they were well serviced, but that the general area was somewhat untidy. It is great to have the new green flag at the school as this creates a better awareness of the local environment best practices on composting etc.

Tidiness:

I noticed a lot of places had recently been swept and the control of weeds was good. It was noticeable that the busy railway platform and outside areas were getting a lot of attention as they were spotlessly clean. There was a great freshness about the children's play area and the adjacent park

Residential Areas:

The older village houses are lovely and well maintained. The estates looked to be orderly and tidy with good landscaping. Substantial private houses are spread around the village with impressive displays of shrubs, flowers, trees and hedging and some are in most picturesque settings.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All the roads are in good condition and the signposts are clean and distinct. You could consider the erection of some finger signs to the school. The bridge over the road is very attractive near the school and you could request CIE to remove the ivy from it as it will eventually damage the stonework. There are many safety issues with the very busy main road for which you have extensive plans. There are some great traditional stone walls on the approach roads.

General Impression:

You are making a determined effort on many fronts and I admire your attention to proper planning. The red valerian wild flower on the stone walls gives great floral decorations. It was a pleasure to visit your village – well done.