

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Glenbrohane** Ref: **453**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **253**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **12/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>253</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Welcome Glenbrohane to the 2009 TidyTowns National Competition on behalf of your village of less than 200 in population. Thank you for sending in your completed entry form and sketch map. While it's disappointing to read from your entry that the meetings are not well attended, but positive that TidyTowns work is appreciated and wished well. It is good to note that you have a committee of 4 members and that you receive support from Limerick County Council, Shannon Development and Ballyhoura. Your communication with the broader community by word of mouth, through the Parish Newsletter and your links with the school personal and professional involvement is all positive. Your aim and objective of using TidyTowns Competition, in your attempts to enhance your beautiful environment, will serve the community well.

### **The Built Environment:**

The Church is located in a magnificent site with wonderful views over the Limerick Tipperary countryside below. The Millennium Crib, nestling in the old stable building, which dated from 1880, must be unique in its year round viewing. A restful and peaceful scene. The little sign could benefit from some renovation and clean up. The car park and viewing area had a very informative 'Stories from Past Times' display board.

What a pity that the Crib has to be protected from unwanted visitors by the use of a security railing.

The Grotto with nicely landscaped areas compliments the overall scene.

The National School was set in well maintained grounds with mature trees, lawns and a neatly presented sportsfield. Paddy and Brid's Traditional Pub, with its planted containers and Sliabh Riad Pub with its bench seat, planted containers and hanging flowers, both looked well

**Landscaping:**

Nice beech hedge, approaching bridge after the National School, was noted.

The yellow and black railings attracted us towards the village via the sylvan setting of the tree lined drive. The village pump on the platform by the riverbank was interesting and, perhaps some weeding around the base of the pump would assist the image. It was nicely decorated in black & amber colours. The timber Welcome to Glenbrohane sign and shrubbery near the Glen River Bridge were very appealing and the well structured wall, with attractive shrubs opposite the Community Hall, continued to draw us through the village.

The Grotto and shrubs were nicely presented.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

It is a pity that the Wildlife Environment boards could not be repaired. As you are aware, the beauty of the area is always enhanced and improved by the availability of Information Panels. The natural habitat by the riverside is a wonderful amenity within the village and should be very successful in attracting a wide range of birds and wildlife. The walking trails in the area will encourage participants to appreciate the importance of providing an environment to protect and nurture native wildlife. Vandalism to the wildlife boards is unfortunate and is difficult to believe that it could happen in such a quiet village.

The links with Ballyhoura is very positive and should be further utilised for the development of flora and fauna attractions.

**Litter Control:**

In general, the village looked free of litter and obviously the weekly programme of litter clean up sessions involving local teenagers is a very good initiative and has paid dividends. Litter bins in the area were in good condition.

**Waste Minimisation:**

Your National School's recycling and waste reducing endeavours are commendable and we congratulate all concerned on the achievement of the Green Flag – although the actual flag did not appear to be flying during our visit. Ongoing liaison with the County Council is vital in the Race against Waste. Use of the Newsletter to communicate the waste minimisation messages is a good strategy.

**Tidiness:**

The grass margins on approach roads are in good condition and neatly maintained. Walls throughout the village were in good condition.

Bilingual signs on the approaches to the village were clean and were enhanced by the raised stone flowerbeds. Some sections of the yellow and black railing were greening and needed to be cleaned. While signage throughout the village was generally in good condition, a white fingerpost sign at the junction beyond the Church needed to be cleaned and at the same junction, there was a damaged timber garden fence. Weed growth is always difficult to control, but the village looked clean and tidy in general.

The removal of overhead wires is always a laudable aim, but in the current economic climate this is difficult. We would suggest that you contact the service providers to discuss the possibility of having them placed underground. At the school, the entrance gates need to be painted.

**Residential Areas:**

The village has nice individual residential homes and in general is well kept and maintained.

The village possesses a good stock of individual residences, both traditional cottages and examples of modern architecture. The shrubs and flower beds throughout the village were in good condition.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Hedges are well trimmed near the church. Nice viewing area at church, great views. Some trees are obscuring signs for junctions at school.

While the roads were in fairly good condition, there were a few potholes at various locations. As stated in your

planned projects, the proposed street lighting from the village to the Church area would greatly enhance the village and is to be recommended.  
The 50kmh speed limit system is also recommended.

**General Impression:**

Congratulations on your entry and work you have achieved to date. Glenbrohane is a small village in a beautiful part of Limerick. We wish you success with your current and future TidyTowns projects.

The little poem captures the atmosphere

'The first bright of the morning sun  
Glints rosy on the pinnacle,  
The rocky ridge of old Sliabh Riagh  
Looks down on the Glen people.'