

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glenosheen** Ref: **454**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **250**
Category: **A** Date(s): **13/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	26	26
The Built Environment	50	27	28
Landscaping	50	31	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26	26
Litter Control	50	38	39
Tidiness	30	19	20
Waste Minimisation	20	10	11
Residential Areas	40	30	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	244	250

Overall Development Approach:

Glenosheen is most welcome to the 2012 TidyTowns competition. Many thanks for your completed entry form and hand drawn map. As a small community you are facing a number of challenges but you are encouraged to maintain your optimism. Your village is in a beautiful natural setting and the fact that you have a TidyTowns committee at all shows that someone cares about this place. Although your numbers may be small the important thing is that the community is aware of your presence and that the door is always open to newcomers. Do you liaise formally with the mountain bike centre as it would seem that you have a common interest in maintaining the picturesque setting. You clearly are also engaged with Ballyhoura and this is a useful contact to have. You do not list Limerick county council and perhaps a liaison here would be useful.

It is encouraging that despite the challenges you face you are continuing to progress projects under each of the competition headings. Do consult with the TidyTowns Handbook as this is full of additional information and tips. Have you considered compiling a three-year plan? This would simply identify a number of actions under each of the headings that you would like to see completed and need not be an onerous task. It would help you to attract support from other agencies and encourage you to think about solutions to seemingly intractable problems.

The Built Environment:

Glenosheen has a small stock of buildings but those that you have are full of character and history. The Joys cottage is very well presented, the farm across the road looks spotless. Old stone walls are conserved in many places while the derelict whitewashed cottage seems to speak from the past.

The Palatine house and old school are beautiful heritage features and the red sandstone masonry really

stands out. A hedge here has been treated with herbicide and this is regrettable as the vegetation is now brown and unsightly.

Landscaping:

Nature has bestowed upon Glenosheen all the landscaping anyone could wish for! The lush forested hills, hedges and green fields hardly need further intervention. Hedges in the village are clearly well maintained by cutting close to the base. This encourages dense growth while allowing tall trees to emerge. Hedges can be restored by replanting stretches that have died back but always be sure to use only native species for this (i.e. no beech, sycamore or horse chestnut).

The views across the valley to the castle and large house are stunning. Colourful flower beds were admired set against stone walls and black painted farm gates.

The new flowerbeds were admired, good work here!

Your plans to plant new whitethorn hedging and develop walks into the forest sound promising and we look forward to hearing an update in 2013.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Glenosheen leans against Seefin mountain and as you correctly point out you have a wide range of habitats on your doorstep. Feeding birds is a great way to bring this nature close to people and should be done year-round. Developing, or enhancing, the walking trails around the mountain are another way of making nature accessible. Why not work with the mountain bike club to hold a heritage event on the area's natural history. You could contact the Limerick county council heritage officer to get some advice on how to do this.

Litter Control:

This area looks at how you manage the problem of litter in your village. Perhaps you have no such problem but with a lot of passing traffic on the main road perhaps this can be an issue. You mentioned elsewhere in your form that you held a cleanup day, did it go ahead despite the low attendance? Remember the power of one!

Photos are always useful in giving an adjudicator a sense of work you have achieved, so why not consider using some next year.

Litter control in Glenosheen is excellent and no litter was observed during adjudication. Well done.

Tidiness:

The village is extremely tidy and no major issues are of note. The stone wall along the main road is beautifully preserved and signposts straight and clean. Grass verges here are well trimmed.

The timber boundary fence at the main road junction is out of place in this location, could be replaced with a more traditional stone wall?

Waste Minimisation:

You mentioned that you now have regular collections of recyclable waste from your homes. While we are good at recycling, Ireland has the worst record in Europe for waste generation. Much of this goes to landfill and this is at the heart of the problem.

You could contact Limerick county council to hold a home composting event. Do you avail of online facilities to find the new owners for unwanted items? There are many other tips available in the Tidy Towns Handbook.

Residential Areas:

Glenosheen has a very small stock of houses and no estates. You mentioned that some of these have become vacant and that is unfortunate. It is hoped the new residents will find their way to your village and restore its vitality. Those homes that there are, are all well presented to a high standard and a number of very attractive gardens were admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads are characterised by lush hedges and tall green trees. The village name plate on approach from Ardpatrik is a bit tired looking and perhaps could be replaced. On the back roads, verges are well trimmed and hedges cut back. A boundary wall prior to the 80kph speed limit sign (although how one would do this speed is unknown) has not been finished, perhaps this is a work in progress.

General Impression:

Glenosheen has a wonderful location in the Ballyhoura mountains and the work of its people has made it both attractive and rich in heritage, despite its small size. Do keep your spirits up and we look forward to returning in 2013. All the best!