

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glenamaddy** Ref: **197**
County: **Galway** Mark: **257**
Category: **B** Date(s): **09/07/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	33
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	35
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	34
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	26
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	49
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33
TOTAL MARK	450	257

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Glenamaddy is very welcome to the 2014 SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition. Many thanks for the completed entry form inclusive of map, supplementary documentation and the Glenamaddy 4 year enhancement programme, 3 year plan 2014-2016 all of which we read with interest. Your 12 plus members have been busy with 13 public meetings, getting involved in the Spring Clean-up Day and The Pride of the Parish Weekend. It is good to know that you have access to additional volunteers for fundraising, for taking part in the watering plants rota and that the National and Community Schools in your area are also involved in your many activities.

Glenamaddy's Turlough is a natural phenomenon full of interest. It is very well presented and we admired the extent of interpretive panels and the suitable sited car park which enables the visitor to enjoy it to the optimum degree. The scant remains of the Poor Law Union House which opened in 1852 might also benefit from an appropriate interpretive panel.

We note you are twinned with Guiscriff in Brittany. Your town in general is well presented and projects an agreeable air of neat and tidy, businesslike approach.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

The town has a splendid supply of built heritage embracing civic, religious and commercial structures. The Garda Station was newly painted while the Glenamaddy Health Centre looked well. St. Joseph's National School was admired - proudly flying its Green Flag. The Community Centre itself was very well presented with many planters. However the car parking area would benefit from more colour from appropriate planting. The Church and the Convent featuring very impressive sculpture were admired. St. Bridget's Hall looked well while West Dock building was fine but their sign would benefit from simply washing. Garvey's Pharmacy in a delightful four house terrace in light blue with windows and doors in white is a most successful presentation. The Ulster Bank looked very well as did Old Cellar's Off-licence in the supermarket. The East Galway School of Music was most attractive, pubs were very well presented, and we admired Harte's Corner House, Raftery's Oakland pub, Comers pub. Other premises that caught the eye included the Butcher Boy, Simply Elegant and John L Garvey. Kilkerrin Road SuperValu Supermarket looked well as did Mattie Potter which was well painted. Dermot's Guesthouse and Restaurant was admired as was Arus Bhríde Rest Home.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The GAA Grounds celebrating 125 years looked very well and we admired the three flags and the two planters by the entrance area. The small scale blue and yellow pump opposite caught the eye. The Cemetery was very well

presented and we admired the map of the various grave and name by the gateway. This is a fine additional facility for visitors. Have you arranged of it to be available on the town or county website. The reconstructed market weighing scales dated originally to 1900 was admired. It is a most interesting element of local folk history. The forest park play ground was admired it is maturing very well in this ideal setting. Cullins Park in general was neat and suitably presented. The Galway Rural Development Co Ltd. shed in the corner would be improved by washing its signage. We admired the fine mural along the side wall. Could this be refreshed before next year's competition? The flower display at the corner after the play ground was admired.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

Pride of place must go to the presentation of the turlough which was especially meritorious. The suitably sited car park, the extensive explanations of the phenomena coupled with the splendid array of interpretative panels giving details of the extensive flora and fauna associated with the turlough was read with great interest. Well done on the introduction of the Slí na Slánta which on the day of adjudication was in popular use. It was a wonderful idea to have a bird watching workshop coupled with viewing session at the turlough. Similar applause goes to the formation of the Tuesday evening walking group, all help to encourage on going exploration of the birdlife and natural history of the area. The erection and periodic inspection of the range of bat boxes in the small plantation off Greggs Road provides further opportunities for contact for these often very shy creatures of the night.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

The waste minimisation programme is first and foremost about the prevention of waste. This involves the community and individual householders giving attention to their use of scarce resources especially water, power and energy together with their food purchasing habits. Much savings can be made once people give attention to their use of these matters. In effect this calls for a change of mindset in our approach to their use. An effective method to achieve these objectives is by staging an information evening at which these and relative issues can be discussed and explored. Explore this option with the Environmental Department of Galway County Council. Using the many survey forms available it is useful to invite individual householders to complete one which will reveal the often sizeable gap between what food is purchased and actually consumed, the balance ending up as waste which then has to be disposed of often at an additional cost. Well done on staging the home composting information evening. The new water butt will quickly prove their worth. The Men's shed is also helping to reuse items successfully. Well done on the national school involvement in the green flag programme.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The related activities of litter control and tidiness have been amalgamated this year into one composite category. You have been very energetic in both aspects of this category. Asking those involved to not erect unsightly posters and to remove old bunting and notices from the street certainly helps. Working to eliminate weeds from kerbs, verges and parking areas is another well worth activity. We would be glad to learn more about the children's gardening group. The area around the entrance to the IDA park would benefit from attention before next years competition.

Well done on taking part in the Parish Pride Spring Clean weekend in May. Your early Sunday morning litter patrol coupled with the weekly reminder in the parish newsletter is certainly helping to reduce litter. It is pleasant to note that you have achieved such a degree of successful litter management. Sadly there was just one significant falling from grace, surprisingly in the car park at the turlough.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

Dudley Heights was a well developed estate with a large communal grassed area which would be greatly enhanced by tree and flower planting. Hopefully this might be tackled by a residence group over the year. O Keeffe Park featured some excellent individual houses that are making a great effort. The sheltered homes in St Bridget's close were admired. In similar locations else where the doors are sometimes each painted a different colour to facilitate easy identification by visitors. We admired the very fine individual private houses on the approach road from Glinsk.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

The approach roads are often referred to as your shop window and this concept underscored their pivotal role in creating first impressions. We admired the painted kerbs yellow and black and the fine 'Welcome to Glenamaddy' signs. Speed limit signs were all suitable presented and not obscured by trees or vegetation. Verges were suitable cut back from these signs inwards which made for a fine introduction to the town. The pleasant planting and seats on left side on the Ballymoe Road were matched by bushes on the right with trees as well making a very good overall visit on this approach. The new footpath near the square on this road is a great improvement while the frequent seats are a welcome addition. The new hedging opposite gives an agreeable sense of enclosure along here. Cregg road was very well maintained but one speed limit sign is missing here. The road surface needs attention in spots as a number of serious sized pot holes were encountered during our visit.