

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glasson** Ref: **214**
County: **Westmeath** Mark: **282**
Category: **B** Date(s): **15/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	39
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	40
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	30
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	8
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	37
TOTAL MARK	450	282

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Glasson is warmly welcomed to the 2014 National Tidy Towns Competition; thank you for your submission and your most helpful map which was clearly marked with both landmarks and work completed for this year's competition and linked to the application form, this was a great help to the adjudicator, thank you also for the covering note. It is also a requirement of the competition that you include a summary of the projects you wish to complete over the next three years at least. Your committee is a very healthy size, having fourteen on board, large enough to divide into sub-groups and assign different responsibilities. Your monthly meetings as well as organised work days are noted also. The range of bodies with whom you liaise and from whom you get support is impressive also as are your communication methods which include both print and social media. It is good to note your regular liaison with the school. Well done on your 35 years participation in the Tidy Towns Competition and congratulations on the difference you have made to both the appearance of the village and quality of life in Glasson.

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

Most buildings within Glasson are neatly presented and those that were particularly admired included The Fatten Calf, Grogans, The Gallery and of course the Community and Heritage Centre which is also beautifully presented. Both the Health Centre premises and the Garda station were neatly presented and the curtilage area of O'Rourke's Fireplaces looks well too. Wheelchair Cars Ireland could be rewhitewashed including the retaining walls marking its entrance. The streetscape of Glasson looks magnificent with the lack of overhead service cables and street lighting featured on attractive lampstandards. Other street furniture is nicely presented also. Well done on work accomplished this year on the Heritage Centre, the derelict garage and the derelict house on the Main Street together with street furniture and walls.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Well maintained grassed verges are an attractive feature of Glasson in addition to mature hedgerow, flowering hedgerow and of course your signature rose displays. The rose bed at Wheelchair Cars Ireland was admired and trees of all ages are another nice feature of Glasson and will of course provide a heritage for future generations. We note from your application the removal of the dead tree at the Garda station and of course the beech hedge planting on the Ballymahon road. As always when choosing plants of any kind try to plant native species that will support biodiversity.

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

Both riverside amenity areas have been beautifully created and enjoy good maintenance. In addition to rose

displays plenty of wild flowers were noted in verges which of course provide for bees and butterflies and pollinators in general, well done. The walk to Waterstown Bog might be brought to Slí na Sláinte standards and provided with comfort markers, a route sign and information regarding distance etc. Well done on your participation in the bird watch survey and also in Woodland Trust's visits to Hare Island and Arden Woods; it is good to note community awareness of the needs of wild birds during the winter. Some thought might be given to the development of nature trails, woodland trails, a river walk and perhaps links with Lough Ree for future projects which might also include the publication of a series of leaflets. Hopefully at some stage a footpath can be developed from the village to Lough Ree thereby linking the two more closely.

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

Well done on your activities as regards recycling and reusing, your use of disposable coffee cups for seedlings and plants as well as plastic containers collected from restaurants for reuse and resale is admirable. The conversion of the old oil tank for re-use as a community compost bin is noted also. For optimum performance under this heading the focus should be on the prevention of waste at source that is to prevent waste from happening in the first instance. With this in mind consult the following website - <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/> - and of course the Tidy Towns Handbook for appropriate projects.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The overall appearance of Glasson is one of tidiness and of course litter control is strong too. Well done on your participation in the National Spring Clean which involved the closure of the N55 for a time and the collection of 50 bags of rubbish in one hour with the Annagh Ballykeeran residents. Your regular daily litter picks are noted as are the tasks completed by Fás workers regularly. Well done also on the cleaning of street signage and other initiatives that fall into this category. Some building materials were noted stored at the end of a small residential development which will no doubt be removed when construction work has finished. An undeveloped site at the top of the Gortaneena road is noted also. The removal of the redundant pole on the low road is favourably acknowledged.

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

What a lovely project to distribute rooted roses from cuttings of a flourishing wild white rose to villagers which are now flourishing equally well this year in many gardens; we note your intention to repeat this in September / October of this year, well done, the village is not known as the Village of the Roses for nothing! An important task for the committee under this heading is to keep up the emphasis on getting residents to pay as much attention to their roadside boundary walls as to their dwellings and their gardens. In too many instances boundary walls were poorly presented particularly along the Main Street of the village and at the Tubberclaire end also. The small residential development at the southern end of the village looked especially well with its well maintained green areas, stone boundary walls and mature gardens, a small housing development beyond the Health Centre was admired for its presentation also. Roadside areas to boundary walls in some instances were in need of attention also. A magnificent tall hedgerow and shaped Yew tree to the boundary of a dwelling is impressive.

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

Road and footpath surfaces are quite good in Glasson and road surfaces are clearly marked. Grassed roadside verges are being neatly maintained as are stone walls and nameplates. The retaining entrance walls to the public toilets could be perhaps cleaned and / or painted. Street furniture is well maintained, the link road appears to be a cul-de-sac perhaps a sign to this effect could be featured.