

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardclough** Ref: **353**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **310**
Category: **B** Date(s): **28/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	49	49
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	38	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	38	39
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	40	40
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	16	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	53
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	35	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	37	38
TOTAL MARK	450	305	310

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Ardclough is welcomed to the 2017 SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your well-presented application and copy of plan for your beautiful village. This is the second visit to the village for this year's adjudicator and once again it was a pleasure to revisit after a number of years.

Ardclough Tidy Towns has an active committee under the umbrella of Ardclough Community Council. All organisations work well together to develop and enhance the village. The residents association do good work in maintaining and enhancing their estates. You engage well with all the relevant agencies and businesses of Ardclough and surrounding area. This communication with the wider community is through a number of ways such as social media, public meetings and parish newsletter. It seems to be working well as all organisations are rallying to the cause. The youths involvement have been honoured with awards for their work in the community during the 2016 Tidy Towns awards which were held in Maynooth College. Since joining the Tidy Towns competition the village has seen a marked improvement to the physical aspect of the village and its surrounds. Continuing your good work will ensure a continuation of this improvement into the future.

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

The GAA complex in the centre of the village is maintained to a high standard and provides a superb amenity for the village and its surrounds. The village centre is also well presented and used well by the community. The new heating system installed will add greatly to the running of the building both structurally and economically. It still contains its educational history with classes being run for the community on a regular basis. Activity here was noted on day of adjudication. The Church and grounds are also well maintained. One must not forget the village shop which is such an important part of the community and it too was busy on day of adjudication. The new modern School building provides an excellent education point for the youth of the area. The canal provides an excellent amenity in its walking way. The bridge over the canal is quiet Narrow and maybe would benefit from lanterns or bright floral containers on its parapet.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Ardclough has many fine presentations of landscaped beds. Lishhandra and Wheatfield upper has to be commended on their excellent presentation. There is superb planting in these areas that attracts birds and bees providing a nice tranquillity to the surrounds. The seating provides a place for one to sit and enjoy. There is also pleasant planting in and outside the Church. Do ensure that the grass in this area is cut more frequently thus avoiding a large amount being left which gives an untidy appearance. The landscaping on the approach roads was bright and welcoming. The area at the village centre with planting and grass uncut for wildlife is superb. The mowed paths enabled the community to ramble through. This could be developed more with further planting of fruit trees

and other bee loving shrubs and plants.

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

Well done on the projects that you have undertaken for the competition. The village has a superb amenity in the canal and the Arthur Guinness way. Partaking in projects that the school has engaged in will help them to identify bird species local to their area, also plants that are native and non-native. It will also give them a better understanding and awareness of the importance of good management of our waterways protecting it from any source of pollution that can harm the water supply and also the wildlife that live therein. The list of birds and mammals that have been identified around Ardclough provides the children and the community with an interesting project, identifying what species that are no longer on the list and new ones that join. Their habitats and habits have then to be studied. It is good that you have the expertise within your group that can demonstrate the different species to the community. Keep up the good work you are an inspiration to other groups.

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

Well done on the master composting course which has provided training to two of your members that will help share the knowledge with the wider community. Have you noticed any improvement in waste reduction such as food waste? Are the community becoming more aware of ways to reduce the amount of waste been produced. Have you got the results of the survey undertaken with St Woltans back? The result of this survey would indicate the habits of the community and identify areas where savings could be made by the community in reducing the amount of waste being produced.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The village generally looks neat and tidy. No weed growth along kerbs was noted. The cut grass on green area at the Church looked untidy but if cut more often as mentioned earlier this would be addressed. Your litter control plan is also working well. The planters, planted with spring bulbs could include summer flowering bulbs for summer colour? Along the canal where such a volume of walkers use was also tidy which was complemented by the eye catching poster. The artistic painting of the cottage looks bright and cheerful.

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

The houses on the approach roads and throughout the village are commended on their superb presentations. Lishandra Estate and Wheatfield upper are also to be commended on their excellent presentation. The well cared for green areas and colourful planting was admired. The residents associations are doing great work in maintaining and enhancing their areas with the addition of new planting each year. Well done on their work for this years competition

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

The approach roads to the village with colourful planting around village signs gives a good first impression of the village and the village itself does not disappoint the visitor. The nicely trimmed verges and clean signage complements the hedging and trees along the roads. One recommendation would be to ask Kildare County Council to continue a footpath up to the bridge. There is a grass verge along that could be used as a footpath and make it somewhat safer for walkers along this stretch of road.

Concluding Remarks:

Ardclough is a good example of a community working together to develop and enhance their village. It was a pleasure to visit the village and do continue the good work. Well done.