

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glenamaddy** Ref: **197**
County: **Galway** Mark: **275**
Category: **B** Date(s): **08/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	35	36
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	37	37
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	36	36
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	29	29
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	17	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33	33
TOTAL MARK	450	272	275

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Many thanks for your entry in this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for participating in Ireland's biggest community project. Well done on a detailed and well-illustrated entry this year. This gave the adjudicator a good insight into your year to date and indeed your organisation. You meet regularly and have solid numbers on your steering group. Reading in this category, what was most impressive was the list of organisation with which you cooperate. This is great and a sign that you take good advice, plan your actions and are well-regarded as a group. You communicate well and you have a dedicated school liaison person - a sound idea. Although you've only been in the competition since 2002, you have made great strides over the last decade and a half.

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

Thank you for the detail supplied here and especially for the before and after' photographs. These are especially useful to an outsider like the author who's only here for the day! Lots of residences have been painted up but these should go in the Residential Streets and Housing Areas category, by rights. The national school has been painted and a section of footpath upgraded and that's great. What especially struck the adjudicator on the sunny adjudication day was how clean and sharp everything looked. This is no accident and is the product of many hours of hard work.

The Community College has a lovely stone plaque at the front. Works were underway at the front of the building here. The Credit Union is a very pleasant little building with an old-fashioned clock and is nicely presented. The Londis shop looked well but the oversized signage on the front elevation doesn't look good. The disused commercial premises (a former lounge-bar/shop) is being used for the display of Galway City and County Council environmental information and this is great. The Post Office / shop was being painted on day of visit. Nearby the curtilage of a bar was being swept up. Later, the adjudicator saw the Sun Takeaway being cleaned too. Well done all. The Supervalu was in very good order. The new Medical Centre looks very sharp.

The community centre is lovely. Great work has been done to make this building attractive. A better sign might be good too though. The library is lovely but is in need of some TLC. The Pharmacy was spotless. What is the former Ulster Bank now? The national school was flying its Green Flag and Activity Flag.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

A lot of your actions here refer to ongoing maintenance and this is essential. The intergenerational work at the organic garden looks really interesting. Next year, please make sure to give some details on this. The rose bed adjacent the bottle banks looks really great. The planting at the Jeremiah Lee monument is very well maintained. A

very neat and ordered feel is to be experienced from your square and adjacent streets. Nice work was seen at St Brigid's Close.

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

It's not exactly clear from your entry what activities you may have undertaken in this category over the last year. You are advised to contact Galway City and County Council's Biodiversity Officer who is very expert in these matters. She will be able to advise you upon the various steps that you will need to take in order to go about learning more. This will probably include engaging an expert in ecological sciences who will be able to assist you with carrying out a survey and drawing up recommendations for management and (perhaps) creation of habitats. Nearby you have a very significant turlough. These are really important habitat types and you are advised to devise some of your actions around this.

Some fine old trees and hedgerows remain within the village and that really adds to the streetscape. At the graveyard some nice examples of lichens were seen.

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

You have provided some good examples of reuse and energy saving in this category. Well done. However, there are many more activities and projects that Tidy Towns groups may undertake. The Tidy Towns Unit sent out a guidance document on this category two years ago. It is available from www.tidytowns.ie if you didn't yet see it. This has literally dozens of project ideas which won't leave you short of things to do to manage waste and save resources.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You have undertaken a Spring Clean in April and that's great. You carry out weekly clean-ups too. We'd like for you to give us more details for your points to increase in this category. However, they surely will as Glenamaddy was generally quite tidy on adjudication day. Three of the tree protection bollards at the church car-park are bent and should be removed. The bottle banks are in very good order. The gates to the AFC were a little bit dirty. Almost no litter was seen on adjudication day, a great achievement. Well done. The anti dog litter stencils were noted.

A gate opposite the former Ulster Bank is in need of repair. The area opposite the cemetery - with the diesel tank and pump - is very messy and unfortunately somewhat detracts from the rest of the village.

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

Thank you for the gorgeous photographs supplied in this category. This is one of the stronger categories for you. A really high level of care was evident almost throughout the village. Some of the houses seen were positively gleaming. St Brigid's Close looked really great on the day. Dudley Heights has excellent planting on the avenue here.

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

You mow a grass strip on the verges in order to leave an unmown area for wild plants and fauna. That is excellent. You may be aware that there is now an All Ireland Pollinator Plan. This contains recommendations on how we might improve the lot of our pollinating insects, such as bees, by adjusting our practices when it comes to mowing, strimming and planting. A PDF of this plan may be downloaded from www.biodiversityireland.ie. This will give some good ideas for treatment of roadside areas.

On the R362 (the Dunmore Road), the first name sign was dirty and one of the 50kph signs is obscured by a tree. The name sign opposite the playground on the Moylough Road has been damaged. The playground is in very good order and there are nice murals here. The ramps here could be painted. The Creggs Road is excellent with lime trees and roses.

Concluding Remarks:

Glenamaddy looked really well on adjudication day. You are obviously working hard. Please give us a little bit more detail in next year's entry. Thanks for all the great efforts and well done to all involved.