

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glinsk** Ref: **198**
County: **Galway** Mark: **272**
Category: **A** Date(s): **08/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	40	42
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	38	38
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	37	37
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	47	47
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	23	23
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33	33
TOTAL MARK	450	269	272

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 the production of the Tidy Towns Plan. This is superbly illustrated and very inspiring. It is suggested, however that this be augmented with a simple tabular list of tasks outstanding, these placed in terms of priority and with an indicative timescale. This will make the plan more useful for you. The ethos of your group is clear though. As you have over 25 years of experience in Tidy Towns your aims have been well-honed and you are making progress.

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

Road widening was underway at time of visit. The Credit Union has been painted. You have works planned for the community centre and these will make a great difference. The Post Office is gorgeous with beautifully-kept lawns and the telephone box is in very good order. A pleasant while was spent in Ballinakill Abbey and some of the really striking memorials were admired. The modern section of the cemetery is really well kept. The very old stone wall here is in good order and hosts many ferns and mosses. The finger sign for the Abbey has slipped a little and could readily be fixed. The railings and gates at the national school are in need of painting. The ESB substation could be screened.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

You have no specific projects here. However, it is acknowledged that the ongoing maintenance is an important part of any Tidy Towns group's work. Lovely tree-planting was noted at the national school as well as well kept lawns. A lovely circular stone planter enhances St Michael's RC Church.

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

Again, you have no new projects in this category but you do mention the maintenance of features that will enhance conditions for wildlife. And again, the maintenance of areas such as the Heritage Park is an important component of your work. Some lovely lichens were seen at the Abbey. Finding out about these could be a very useful exercise for the national school children. Elm and beech trees with plaques were noted. Swallows and house martins were constant companions during the visit to Glinsk. Mature sycamores are an important part of your landscape here.

The Suck Valley Way goes through the village - is there any signage for this here?

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

Congratulations to Glinsk national school on obtaining the litter and waste Green Flag. This, it is believed, is the first of the awards so this is a huge step forward. Most of the initiatives that you mention in this category relate to the national school. However, where possible, you should try to encourage all residents to adopt more environmentally-friendly actions. The Tidy Towns Unit sent out a guidance document on this category the year before last. It is available from www.tidytowns.ie if you didn't yet see it. This has literally dozens of project ideas so you'll not be stuck for things to do to get more points in this category.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done to the national school for organising the Spring Clean and recycling the findings. The removal of the litterbins is probably the right track to take. An abandoned blue barrel at the corner could be removed. A truck trailer parked near the school doesn't look well. This area could be developed with a footpath perhaps.

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

While there are no specific tasks mentioned here, it is clear that individual householders are 'doing their bit'. You didn't say who maintains the grassed area of the Castlilawn estate. Is this done by a contractor or do the residents organise this? This estate has amazing views as well as ample green space. A sign announcing a Housing Association scheme left the adjudicator a little at a loss. There only appeared to be a car-park here.

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

You could consider managing your roadside areas for wildlife. 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.

Converting areas of verge to low/no cut regimes is a way to save time and petrol as well as bees. This is an area wherein Tidy Towns groups such as your own can provide oversight and resources and save the local authority input for another area where you cannot directly help (e.g. road signage or surfaces). A wide green area on the road to the Abbey might present itself as a site for a 'low-mow' regime.

The Marian Shrine is well cared-for. The mini-playground area at the national school would be improved by some painting. planting to the north of the village was admired.

Concluding Remarks:

Thank you for all your hard work over the last year. While there are some areas for your attention, there are also lots of opportunities where you might take up some new initiatives. Well done.