

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glenbeigh - Gleann Beithe** Ref: **337**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **315**
Category: **A** Date(s): **23/06/2019**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	45	45
Streetscape & Public Places	60	40	41
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	43	44
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	31	32
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	23	24
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56	58
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	36	37
TOTAL MARK	470	307	315

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Glenbeigh Gleann Beithe páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019.

You are fortunate to have nine committee members and another 45 volunteers who support you as the need arises. This is a very large number in relation to the size of your community, obviously, an active Community Council and a busy Community Centre. Your monthly meetings are supplemented by other meetings as required and we note the many activities that take place throughout the year.

Many agencies from local businesses and public bodies support your work and for communications, you have Facebook, a website, Church Newsletter, notice board newspaper and public meetings. The school liaison officer works with the two primary schools and a pre-school and the pupils participate in the Spring Clean-up. Well done to the students and teachers of Curraheen National School for achieving their 4th Green Flag which was on travel. Many thanks for attaching a map of the area with project locations marked for our attention and for including pictures throughout the application. However, the map is not very easy to read because everything written on it is too small. We suggest that you work on improving this map for next year's application. The test is to show it to a person who is not familiar with your community and see if they can understand it.

Thank you for the long-term plan which was done by a consultant. However, you need to take ownership of this plan by inserting the years when the various projects will be implemented because it is not possible to achieve everything in one year and it is good to aim for targets over a period of years. Without that information it is just a list.

Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

Well done on restoring the dancehall wall and for your work in maintaining the Glenross shop opposite Glenross Caravan Park. St. James's Church built with sandstone walls and limestone window reveals looks very well. The adjacent Community Centre looks great after its refurbishment and the car park has good surfacing. What we missed was some landscape treatment; a few trees would add important softening. We were very impressed with the landscape scene painted on the storage box near the stone wall boundary. The Belfry Chapel with its red sandstone walls and red brick window reveals is a lovely wedding venue and is being promoted for that use. Rossbeigh Tower replica is very good and we liked the information on the horseshoe. The white-washed Glenbeigh Hotel near the Glenross Camping and Caravan Park is lower than road level. A laurel hedge provides privacy screening from road traffic and we admired the window boxes. The Monkey Puzzle at the back of the site has very little canopy growth on a tall stem; it looks like it is near the end of its life. The Towers Hotel with its white building extensions occupies a prominent position at a junction in the village. The Sleepy Camel and Sweeney's pub looked

well as did Ashe's and O'Suilleabhain. One can hardly see the Post Office for flowers. Well done. Sheahan's Centra Supermarket and Maxol Service Station is surrounded with a large car park which was clean and tidy. It is suggested that consideration be given to planting trees on this site to soften its appearance. Across the road a rectangular car park is also well-surfaced, and we liked the well-established laurel hedge forming a boundary with the road. Curra burial grounds are well maintained and there are existing trees in the cemetery. One side is a field hedgerow and the other is an attractive stone wall. There is too much herbicide being used here. The layout of the graves is very good. The boundary of a stone wall and railings are in good condition. We were delighted with a native plant on a stone wall opposite the burial grounds. Known as stonecrop, its botanical name is *Sedum annuum*. The monument to the Great Southern and Western Railway is nicely done. A memorial stone with historical information with a relief of a train and carriage, sitting on railway tracks is well presented. It is an important reminder of your history.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The main structural elements in the landscape are trees and it is great to see that you planted a new line of trees behind a wall on the Killorglin Road. However, it is disappointing that they are not establishing well and in fact, they seem to be dying. They seemed to be good specimens, so we are wondering if the cause of their decline is associated with the planting method or after care. If they were bare root, it would be important to ensure that the roots did not dry out at any stage and then it is necessary to keep watering the root pit for the first two years. Of greater concern is the presence of Japanese Knotweed on this site. That invasive plant has extensive roots with a capacity to compete with the new tree roots for moisture and nutrients. We advise that you seek expert advice from a Horticulturist about the trees and the invasive plant. The linear parking space in front of the GAA grounds is looking great. The Ogham stones surrounded with flowers is a nice feature. The entrance to the GAA grounds are perhaps the best in terms of landscape treatment for such grounds that this adjudicator has ever seen. We admired the Cotoneasters and Rhododendrons. The margins on this road are wide enough to accommodate street trees and we suggest that this matter be taken up with Kerry County Council. We liked the rose beds on the grass margin near the Belfry Chapel and several floral decorations of plant containers, window boxes and hanging baskets in the village, all of which are to a very high standard. However, we suggest that street tree planting in the centre village would have longer term value and less maintenance than plant containers. If considering more seasonal flowers the use of permanent planting including herbaceous perennials for floral displays is encouraged rather than relying on annuals which are more time consuming.

Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:

Your application includes eight items under this criterion, and we note your pride in being a successful site for the Natterjack Toad. You are also dealing with coastal erosion which is causing flooding and have obtained a grant from the OPW for constructing embankments at Incherea. The Swift Project at Glenbeigh Community Centre provides great interest when they visit from April to August. You provide a habitat for Smooth Newts and have built 10 bat boxes and placed them in south facing areas for maximum sunlight. You used recycled materials for building insect hotels and partake in annual clean-up campaigns on the strand and beach.

You have a rich natural area surrounding your community and it is important to promote an awareness of its many traits and to map these habitats. Habitats of value include specimen trees, hedgerows, treelines, streams, woodlands and wetlands. Try to list the plants and animals to be found there and recognise their significance (native, protected, or alien invasive?). This information can be fun to gather and can involve the schools or other interested parties. Raise awareness through holding events such as hedgerow walks or bat walks. Contact the Irish Wildlife Trust for more information.

Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:

This category is about tackling the growing waste mountain that is creating problems of pollution, unwanted land use, and the use of dwindling resources. It is a global and a local problem. To save the Earth we need to move quickly to a zero-waste society.

The emphasis here really needs to be on reducing the volume of waste produced rather than recycling (which is taken for granted). At this level of the contest the adjudicator wants to see innovation in tackling bigger issues of food waste, plastic disposal and energy use. Activities mentioned in your application include attending workshops on climate change, water conservation, composting, recycling and hedge planting. We note that you installed a battery operated, controlled water release system for plant containers. You collect rainwater in five locations and in the Incherea residential estate, nine of the twelve houses have water butts and the trend is being followed by the Kilnabrack estate. You have signed up to "Foodshare Kerry" which involves volunteers distributing food once a month from the Community Centre. Your Waste Minimization Plan is working well, and the recycling banks are well used. One wonders if there has been any reduction in waste. There is a monthly car boot sale and the Hospice benefits from the proceeds. Used batteries are recycled at the Post Office and are collected in the schools. A book swap operates successfully in the school and the GAA have an annual scrap metal collection. Since 2013, students in Glenbeigh National School collect rubbish after their breaks and it is segregated for disposal/recycling. The school is obviously a source of inspiration as they have been running an allotment since 2012. All these activities are very much in line with this criterion and we congratulate you on these many initiatives.

Finally, in response to an overuse of chemicals for weed control, many useful products of the past are no longer available and therefore communities are encouraged to use other means such as hoeing to maintain weeds. In

some cases, allowing wildflowers to develop is an acceptable alternative.

For more helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

In Glenbeigh, you have to deal with litter in the village and surroundings and debris which is washed onto the beach. Annual County clean-up campaigns are a stimulus for action, and you are active participants and you use the "Adopt a Road" approach as well. It is great that you have such public support (including the school) and assistance on these campaigns and it must be very encouraging for you to realise that the result is less litter being dumped in the village. We are pleased to report that we found very little litter in Glenbeigh. The Recycling banks were clean and tidy and the Hydrangeas were looking good.

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

A competition is a great way of raising standards and we can see that it is working well for you in Glenbeigh. Working with housing associations is another good idea and you do that as well. We were pleased to see that most private houses in Glenbeigh are in good condition and well-maintained. There are fine houses across the road from the GAA grounds and we admired their hanging baskets. Falvey's mobile home park is well screened with a low stonewall and hedgerows of mixed species. Cois Abhainn is a small estate which is well landscaped and there are window boxes and hanging baskets. Opposite The village house, we admired a private house with great Floral displays. We admired the ivy growing at Emir Court apartment complex.

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

A walkway to Rossbeigh beach has been a major project for you since it was initiated in 2016 and now that it is completed you deserve much credit for persisting and making it happen. You are also working on having continuous safe routes for pedestrians.

The approach from Killorglin is very nice with low stone walls. The bilingual statutory sign and planting was well done. A new tree here is not doing well. Cahersiveen Road approach is well planted, especially near the Belfry Chapel where the roses look great. The name stone is well done and the yellow Marigolds at the base add enhancement. There is a glimpse of the old castle on a hill. Birch trees are delightful, and hedges are lovely across the road.

Concluding Remarks:

It is obvious that the Glenbeigh community take great pride in their area and you have worked hard to implement improvements over the years. Keep up the good work, but please prepare a map that does justice to what you have to offer for next year and get more marks.