

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: Glenealy - Gleann Fhaidhle	Ref: 903
County: Wicklow	Mark: 284
Category: B	Date(s): 13/07/2019

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	40	41
Streetscape & Public Places	60	37	38
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	40	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	21	22
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	16	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	35
TOTAL MARK	470	276	284

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Glenealy - Gleann Fhaidhle páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019. Many thanks for your entry form and accompanying onformatino and photos. Also your easy-to-follow map, handily laminated in case of rain! It sounds like you have great numbers of volunteers in Glenealy with a total of 24 to call on and lots of links to businesses and other bodies giving you a great support network. Wonderful to see that Glenealy has its own Junior TidyTowns and help from the local Foroige group – these are your future members and the future of a well-cared-for Glenealy!

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

There's lots of upcoming developments due to happen in your village over the coming years with the new GAA park and the Equestrian centre. Liaising with these groups will be very important to ensure your lovely green streetscape in Glenealy is retained. The centre of the village is looking well although we would love to see more pollinator-friendly planting – lots of colourful herbaceous perennials in the beds beside the Recycling centre and across the road from it in future – see details below for guidance on this. The old gate lodge is a beautiful little building full of character at the heart of your village. Your idea of setting up a community hub with a tea rooms and Men's Shed possibly in this building would be absolutely wonderful – we await this development with interest in future years! You are right to do lots of research and consultation before starting your proposed graveyard project. The Wicklow Heritage Officer should be your first port of call and she will guide you on what's possible. Also have a read of the excellent Community conservation of graveyards publication by the Heritage Council available to download at www.heritagecouncil.ie/publications

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Glenealy has a lovely green serene feel to it and this is due to the beautiful rows of mature trees through the village and the backdrop of the Deputy's Pass woodland - a woodland of international importance (Deputy's Pass Special Area of Conservation 000717, perhaps worth investigating for possible future Nature and Biodiversity in your locality projects?). You have clearly put in a lot of work into your planting this year and it is lovely to add colour to your village landscape. However, much of your planting is of annuals that are of very little food value to our beleaguered pollinators. Please download your free copy of the Communities version of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan at www.pollinators.ie/resources. In it you will see how vitally important it is that we in TidyTowns do as much as possible to help. Several of our bee species in Ireland are close to extinction while the more common species are suffering huge population drops. Did you know that we have lost 17% of our bumblebee numbers since 2012 alone? This is due to a combination of factors including the bees dying of hunger due to a lack of wildflowers and

pollinator-friendly flowers in our gardens, villages and towns. This is why Tidy Towns committees in Ireland must do their bit! And there are plenty of marks going for pollinator-friendly planting for that reason. The pollinators.ie website has lots and lots of helpful guidance and information. Download your free copy of the Pollinator Planting Code too. This invaluable document has long lists of all sorts of plants for every situation imaginable whether that be dry, shaded, sunny, walls, banks or lawns. Another lovely idea would be to take inspiration from nearby Kilmacurragh Gardens and have crocus lawns in Glenealy. Crocuses are a great source of colour and pollen food in early spring when hungry queen bees emerge from hibernation. Kilmacurragh crocus lawn is 300 years old so planting crocus bulbs will give you very good value for money! Hold off on your first mowing until the crocuses and the all-important dandelions have finished flowering. This will do a huge amount to help feed our pollinators and those crocuses will keep flowering year after year.

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

Good pollinator-friendly plants and flowers were noted in the Barnbawn road bed near the west village boundary and in the area on the bank below the Church of Ireland church. These looked lovely on adjudication day. They will last for years and take a lot less maintenance than annuals that need buying and replanting every year so there are benefits for the humans as well as the pollinators for this kind of planting. Have a good read of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan as mentioned above for more ideas and inspiration in this category. There is plenty of potential for slight changes in your mowing regimes of grassy areas and a few changes to your planting regimes as mentioned above. The Bug hotel at Carrig View was seen – these are great for raising awareness – an important part of Tidy Towns job!

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

Well done to St. Joseph's N.S. on your ecobrick project. This is a new initiative that is catching the imagination across the country. The pupils of the school sound like they are really clued in to the environment – good luck with the coffee grounds initiative – every little bit helps! The Junior Tidy Towns group are clearly having an impact. There is a Junior version of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan amongst other resources for school children available at www.pollinators.ie/resources If they haven't seen these already there may be more inspiration here for future Junior Tidy Towns projects!

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Glenealy was looking very tidy on adjudication day – well done in this category. It can't be easy with such a busy road cutting through your village.

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

Everywhere looked well and clearly the residents of Glenealy take pride in their local area. Running your own village competition for best kept estate etc. has been successful in other Wicklow towns and villages – you refer to possibly setting this up in your 3-5 Year Plan. This would make a good addition to the overall competition.

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

The approach road from Rathdrum was looking particularly lovely on adjudication day with wildflowers and grasses gently nodding beside the path. Your management of the roadside here is great – both pollinator-friendly and well managed. Keeping the grassy verge at the base of the hedge or wall is very important as these are the habitats where many species of bumble and solitary bees nest. I also like the way there is a grass verge between the pedestrian path and this busy road – a lovely buffer zone from the cars whizzing by!

Concluding Remarks:

Glenealy is a beautifully situated village with a strong community looking after it and in particular a very active Junior Tidy Towns group – we await future projects with interest!