

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Laragh&Glendalough-An
Laithreach & Gleann Da
Loch** Ref: **260**

County: **Wicklow** Mark: **293**

Category: **B** Date(s): **12/07/2019**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	35	36
Streetscape & Public Places	60	41	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	41	42
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	31	32
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	13	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62	64
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	32
TOTAL MARK	470	284	293

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Laragh/Glendalough - An Laithreach agus Gleann dá loch páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019. You have a great number of volunteers involved in your community for a relatively small population. This is heartening to see demonstrating great community spirit. You also have many links with public bodies and other community associations which are a very important support mechanism. Keep up your involvement with St. Kevin's National School - these pupils are your members of the future so it's always a good idea to a junior project on the go. The school featured a trail of colourful bunting showing how well they have done with the Green Flag competitions over the years. This is very important and shows that there must be plenty of young environmentalists at school here!

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

Laragh and Glendalough have long had to put up with bad traffic problems which must be getting worse as the tourist season lengthens with each year. We look forward with interest to a positive outcome as result of the traffic management plan for your village. Laragh is a pretty spot clearly with a vibrant resident community underneath all the tourism buzz of the high season. Sometimes the local community can get overlooked in areas of high tourism value, therefore your TidyTowns group is all important for the local community as you liaise with different groups on their behalf – the proposed traffic management plan being a clear example of this. The new playground at the Brockagh Resource centre was admired. It still wasn't open to the public but was very nearly there – a great amenity for the local children.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The Brockagh resource centre had some lovely pollinator-friendly planting adding colour around the building and car park. Supplementary planting some of the gaps in the flower beds here with more herbaceous perennials will yield lovely results. Make sure to download your free copy of the Pollinator Planting Code from www.pollinators.ie/resources for extensive lists of plants, trees and shrubs for every situation all of which are pollinator friendly. TidyTowns can play a huge role in helping our beleaguered, hungry pollinators by always ensuring that their planting in public spaces is from this list – it is very extensive! It is also good to hear that you have been tree planting around Laragh. Luckily you have no shortage of beautiful trees in the area, however, recognitions must be made of the fact that it will be your responsibility to ensure this continues with tree planting on into the future so there'll be plenty to replace the older ones as they die off.

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

Lovely wildflowers were noted in the grounds of St. Kevin's Church - no need for wildflower seed here! Often this is the case that wildflower seed does not need to be sown – simply change the management of the grass/lawn area to having its first mowing in early July like a hay meadow and lift off the hay. Then give it a second final mowing in July. After a couple of years you will see plenty of wildflowers blooming. Especially in a lovely rural area like Laragh, the local seed source is there all ready and waiting to bloom if it's given the chance. Your new habitat information sign was seen provoking interest and giving information to passers-by. The only drawback is that it is not easy to find! Neither is the community garden although that may be intentional understandably as it is a beautiful peaceful oasis in what can be a busy place in the height of the tourist season! However, since you have gone to a lot of trouble to put up this informative sign maybe a little Fingerpost directing people in its direction might be a good idea.

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

It is great to hear that Laragh/Glendalough is aiming to become a sustainable energy community. We look forward to the outcome of all your plans in future competitions. Your community garden looked idyllic on the warm sunny summer's evening it was visited. Well done - it looked very productive and well looked after.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The Pure Mile is a great project that many Wicklow villages seem to be partaking in. Well done on your use of hoes rather than herbicide. It makes for hard work but you will reap the rewards with a healthier surrounding environment and more ecological services in the form of healthy pollinators.

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

Your use of handsome granite boulders to name your housing estates was noted. It's particularly lovely to hear of the old local names being retained in its Irish form Cluain bán.

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

The Approach Road to Glendalough from Laragh is lovely and green all the way along except for one area of metal fencing. Perhaps it might be possible to liaise with the business here to see about greening up the outside with some native hedging perhaps? A length of hawthorn hedging would do the trick whilst also adding biodiversity value. The new path out to Trooperstown was noted – it's always good to see projects that encourage more walking within communities. Your Neighbourhood Enhancement Scheme sounds great and we look forward to walking in the woods on a return visit when the project is completed.

Concluding Remarks:

My visit to Laragh and Glendalough was a pleasure as it always is. Keep up the great work you are carrying out for your local community – enhancing the lives of all who live there as well as the many visitors.