

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glenbeigh** Ref: **337**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **280**
Category: **A** Date(s): **14/07/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	35	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	37	37
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39	40
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	25	25
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	11	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	34
TOTAL MARK	450	265	280

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Congratulations to Glenbeigh Community Council for entering the 2015 SuperValu TidyTowns Competition. Our wish for you is that your participation in the competition assists you in your work to improve the appearance of your village and to improve the experience of living in Glenbeigh and visiting Glenbeigh. Thank you for your comprehensive entry form which is enlivened by the spray of photos pertaining to the various competition categories, the detailed, enumerated map with its invite to visit Incherea Road, the supplementary material relating to your Clean-Up, the floral competition and the information related to recycling. Your committee seems representative of many elements of the Glenbeigh population. Community involvement and community cooperation seem to be at the heart of the work done in the village. The seanfhocal: Ní neart go cur le chéile comes to mind as one reads your submission. It was great to see the response you got for your 'Clean-Up' on your website and illustrates how you can use the website to stay in touch with the community. It is also worthy of note that you include visitors to the village as part of the community and the community effort. All are encouraged to be actively involved in improving the quality of life in Glenbeigh. Your group seems to be fully aware of the issues that shape life in Glenbeigh, for instance the challenges faced by the big influx of visitors at peak holiday times. Well done to the compiler of your submission. Just one caveat related to your submission: it is very wordy in places and repetitive also in places. Be concise in making your point.

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

Glenbeigh has managed to retain many of the village buildings that are traditional to the village. Of course there have been developments but the Church, Towers, the Olde Glenbeigh Hotel seem to have been in situ since time began. The ruin of the old church sparked curiosity and is was disappointing to come on three delightfully colourful frames full of good intentions. The back of the Church has become a tad wild also even after some conifers had been planted there. The adjudicator admired the rail here and the railings at the Church front. The Church name is decorated wonderfully for the summer with herbaceous plants. As I was in that area at all the disabled access was noted and admires as was the appearance of the Community Centre. Well done on your efforts with the vacant house on the Killorglin side. Glenbeigh has developed a bright colourful streetscape over the years which is enhanced by the hanging baskets. The adjudicator is disappointed that there was not a greater visibility for the Irish language throughout the village. There is a memorial plate, in Irish, to An T-Athair Tomás mac Eoin from which one got the impression that the teanga must have been strong here once upon a time. So one is grateful for the Fáilte go Gleann Beatha stone. The adjudicator did visit Rossbeigh even if it is out the road. But your community has been involved out there and the work that has been done is a credit to your people. The playground, tennis and basketball courts are wonderful facilities. The bridge is an important part of your heritage and one is pleased that you honour it with the hanging baskets. There is a body of opinion that would claim you allow the bridge speak for itself. The GAA complex certainly speaks for itself, possibly a barometer of the health of the Glenbeigh community.

It would be wrong not to mention the school after all the time spent in finding it. Lovely building and a promising kitchen garden.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

This section is surely your forte. From arrival to departure your raised beds are full of colour and welcome. Those formal peninsulas of raised beds at the GAA parking are a delight. But then there are so many raised beds about, all singing with their joyful colour. The planters add their colour to the chorus. Wonderful and wonderful work in their maintenance also. The most popular plant seems to be the hebe with its delightful pale purple flower and which is a feature of many of the estates. Hanging baskets occur as regularly as the poles and bring a uniformity to the picture. The adjudicator is pleased to read that so much of the work is voluntary, as in the maintenance of grass verges. Pockets of parking are to be found regularly and very often the planting surrounding those parking inlets is wonderful. The car park at Centra is an example. On the road out of town another area is a hydrangea joy. Your work at Incherea, which was eventually stumbled on, is another example of how an area can be brightened up not just with the flowers but with paving and the black painted sleepers. A lasting memory will be the walls, hedging, gravel, raised beds and information panels along that long stretch of the GAA front. Lovely.

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

Firstly, without ever visiting Glenbeigh, the adjudicator is pleased that you are aware of the Special Protected Areas in the vicinity of the village. But in visiting Glenbeigh he discovered how much information you have on the wildlife of the area and how effectively and attractively you display this information to the public. There are information panels in the most unexpected areas. Well done. A special mention has to be made of the contribution of the owners of the house in the village centre with the delightful curved beds, the miniature cottage and, of course, the insect hotel. What is most satisfying is to read that this is not a one person initiative but involves many people from the village. The adjudicator is delighted to hear of the bee lines but figures that this is a new project with you. Next year's submission must share information gleaned. What with the sea, the river and the majestic trees this must be a bird watchers haven. No mention of a dawn chorus walk. The adjudicator loved the river Walk. It afforded a great view of the six arched bridge. It was enriched by the information panels. The sounds of the river were music to the ear. But one did see the Japanese Knotweed, an issue. One also found it in abundance on a side road. There is also some giant rhubarb that needs attention. In eradicating these make sure that people go about it in an informed fashion. The wrong action could lead to a worse outcome.

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

Your list of projects in this category show that you are making great efforts to progress in this sustainability category. The projects also show that the effort is cross generational. Very good. The schools are to be commended for their Green Flag involvement. School authorities are commended for operating a school book exchange policy which as an important secondary value: it impresses on the pupil the need to eliminate waste. They are also recommended for their initiative with the garden plots. This adjudicator loves the car boot sale practice and the water saving butts. It is clear from your attachment that you attempt to make the community aware of the recycling facilities in your area. Very worthy. The title of the attachment is: 'Waste Minimisation, Action Plan'. A key value of the information in the attachment is that it creates awareness of good practice in relation to waste. In truth there is little regarding minimisation of waste in the attachment except through recycling and some very worthwhile reuse projects such as clothing, crockery and spectacles. All of these projects are worthwhile but are at a lower rung in the sustainability ladder. For next year examine how you could initiate just one more waste elimination project. Take a look at the Tidy Towns handbook on the topic of waste elimination. The adjudicator regrets that he did not come across a water butt, which is not to say that they have not been put in place. Your submission mentioned two schools in Glenbeigh but the map did not include them. Eventually the adjudicator found one, a delight with bird boxes on the trees and mini allotments in the garden. Well done to all involved.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

There are a number of factors that create a tidy image for Glenbeigh. The main roads into the village are being properly maintained meaning that road surface is satisfactory, the paths are well kerbed, the vegetation is controlled for the most part and the grass verge is mown regularly. While there is a lot of different coloured activity in the village centre in this adjudicator's view one would not see it as visual clutter but a contributor to the seaside village atmosphere. The regularity of the hanging baskets, of the landscaped areas, of the tubs also creates an ordered appearance which lends to tidiness. You know where there are some challenges to that appearance. Credit to the Incherea residents for initiating the 'Adopt a Road' for litter control and appearance awareness. Delighted that this enthusiasm has become contagious. There is a certain amount of advertising that should be controlled. Let the circus in Killorglin look after itself and not deface your beautiful street. Another sign for a supermarket impacts very negatively on the natural wilderness surrounding it. There are some wrecked looking bad gates that destroy the image around them. One reads that you have got extra bins from the County Council. The adjudicator feels that some of these need to be installed along the River Walk which is badly littered. The adjudicator did not come across any other litter black-spot. But there is some litter even on the street. It is great to read that you feel amounts have reduced in recent times.

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

There are clusters of houses dotted all over Glenbeigh. A feature of those homes is the low density of housing in all cases. Each estate, if estate you can call them, has a personality of its own provided by house design, by the sweeping entrance, by the landscaping. Most of these seem to be holiday homes. Homes at the village heart go a

step further in bringing colour to their fronts with window boxes and hanging baskets. An example is a bungalow near the Towers with divine planting. There are fine houses on the Killorglin road, on the way to Kilnabrack, on the Reennanalagane road, on the Incherea Road. These homes ensure that their fronts are not only neat and tidy but also enhance the appearance of the area with their planting. One is pleased to read that your agenda includes getting name stones for the many estates in both languages. It is easy to describe the perched views of Glencastle because it has been christened. You mention the increased population as an issue for you over the summer months. Surely the emphasis should be on the opportunities that this increased footfall create for so many aspects of the village.

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

The N70 provides the main approach roads to Glenbeigh. Glenbeigh announces itself appropriately with the colour and dignity that befits the experience the traveller is about to experience. A lovely feature is the delightful housing for instance across from the GAA complex. The adjudicator loved the hedging along the road that leads to the junction with the Community Centre. This is a delightful wild country road. Walls are an art form all along the approach roads and give definition to their surroundings. A stretch on the Kilnabrack Road is an example. The ditch on the Rossbeigh road is another gem.

Concluding Remarks:

This is a seaside village to savour, to savour for its location between the mountains and the sea, to savour for the backdrop to the village of conifers creeping up the mountain, to savour for the minor roads that lead one astray, to savour for the past that is made present in the information panels all over the village, to savour for the sharing of information on wildlife and plants on those same information panels. Keep up the wonderful work that creates this delightful retreat.