

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glin** Ref: **455**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **280**
Category: **B** Date(s): **19/06/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	40	41
The Built Environment	50	39	41
Landscaping	50	37	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	31	33
Litter Control	50	33	34
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	9	11
Tidiness	30	15	16
Residential Areas	40	28	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31	31
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	270	280

Overall Development Approach:

Glin is welcome to the 2013 TidyTowns competition and thank you for your comprehensive application. There have been many improvements since my last visit a few years ago. You have obviously been busy! Your strong committee of 14 represents all sectors of your community. Well done for recruiting four new members in 2012. Hopefully this will bring new energy and ideas to Glin TidyTowns. You have strong links with local clubs and groups and it is encouraging that you are engaging closely with the local school. The Junior TT committee is a wonderful initiative as they are the future of Glin TidyTowns! You receive support/training from West Limerick Resources, Limerick Co Co and the Community Rural Employment Scheme among others. Well done on setting up your brand new website www.glin.ie. You also use the parish newsletter, local press and messages relayed via the school. As mentioned last year, it is recommended to submit one or two samples of your communications campaign. When the website is established, you can consider setting up a facebook page in order to reach out to everybody in the community.

You are asked to submit a 3 or 5 year TidyTowns Plan in order to progress in this category. I would recommend you use the TidyTowns category headings and a few specific actions under each. Also try to put timeframes on future actions.

The Built Environment:

The new interpretative signage is a great addition to Glin and a wonderful aid to visitors. We wished we could have stayed longer, experience some of the wonderful walking trails. Use of Irish is noted. The new cobblelock at the park looks well as does all street furniture in this area. The playground and tennis courts are well maintained. The footbridge with its attractive heritage lighting was admired. The 'street volunteers' is a great initiative. What has been their success in getting any improvements made to derelict properties? The graveyard headstone recording project sounds interesting. Please give us an update next time. The newly painted St. Fergus's N.S. looks very well as does the old school on the Althea Road. The gate at the graveyard requires attention. St. Paul's Heritage Centre (former COI) is complemented by good tree planting along its boundaries. The R.C. church across the way has neatly presented grounds and railings. Adam's petrol station/shop is neatly presented and efforts have been made to improve the roadside appearance with suitable landscaping. The main street is neat and colourful and your traditional signage was admired. You have some lovely buildings of heritage value that hopefully you can conserve for future generations. Buildings that caught the eye were Sheahan's Hardware, Glin Pharmacy, McNamara's shop, library and the quaint Geoghan's pub. Conways looks

neat and inviting. Are there any plans for the not-so-lovely Shaughnessy's at the top end of the street? The building beside Glin Pharmacy is well presented despite being unoccupied.

Landscaping:

The town park is in a challenging natural environment. Well done for persevering with your plant selection. The park looks wonderful and blends in well with the natural coastal surroundings. The planting of the Irish Yew and conservation of the stone wall has really tidied up this corner and made it attractive. The ICA bed is colourful. The Cloverfield Homes complex stands out in terms of its beautifully maintained gardens and communal areas. Well done to all involved. The pier area on the Limerick Road has a well maintained picnic area and some new tree planting. Be mindful of excessive use of herbicide as it can impact wildlife, also it doesn't look very pleasing to the eye.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The main aim of this category is to find out what wildlife you have in Glin, then how you can protect it and raise awareness of it. Glin has great potential to score highly in this category and you are making steady progress. You are commended for seeking the right advice (e.g. Heritage Officer) and asking local experts to assist you in raising awareness (e.g. Birdwatch Ireland). Keep up the good work. The recently launched signage and brochure on your various local walks are really opening up your natural amenities for all to discover. Initiatives such as the arboretum on the Knights walk make people aware of the local trees in a fun and enjoyable way. The colourful wildflower meadow near the church is becoming well-established already. It was colourful and the trimmed edges meant it looked pretty instead of untidy. Both benches here are in very good order. The beech hedge frames it nicely. Well done to all involved. You are also commended for planting native trees where possible. You are raising awareness of your estuarine habitats, shoreline, birds and woodland through recently erected interpretative panels at key locations. Well done for incorporating your habitat survey results into the content of these displays. All signage is of excellent quality. Awareness events such as your shoreline walk facilitated by Birdwatch Ireland, are a great way of getting people to engage with the nature on their doorsteps. It is great to hear that you have active birdwatchers to monitor local activities. Can you set up a more structured monitoring survey and show us samples? Be sure to engage with the school on this category where possible, particularly if they are working on their 'biodiversity' green schools theme. You would have many mutual aims and should work together for maximum benefit.

Litter Control:

Well done for your ongoing litter patrols and participation in National Spring Clean. Your efforts to segregate collected materials for recycling are noted. Litter control was very good on the day of our visit. We spotted the local Litter Warden on patrol at the Town Park. There was a little litter on the small road to the pier. The bottle banks at the GAA field were neatly presented. Well done for acquiring dog waste bags from the council and distributing them to local dog owners. Did you run an awareness campaign on dog fouling in conjunction with this? You say you have a strong litter awareness campaign. It is important that you show us evidence of this, e.g. sample press cuttings or photos? Awareness is an important element of this category. How are you encouraging all residential areas to get involved in litter management? All residential areas were litter free during our visit. Do you have residents associations and are they represented on your committee? Well done to all involved.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

Well done for taking the time to read the new guidelines for this category. You show a good understanding of it. You are commended for encouraging festival organisers to become greener through reduction of flyer use etc. Your own efforts to reduce paper are noted. The school composting scheme is interesting. Are parents/householders being encouraged to home compost? Encouraging any reuse initiatives such as the 2nd hand book stall in the shop, is appropriate to this category. Any 'grow your own' initiative not only produces healthy food to eat but reduces packaging, energy, air miles etc so this is also a worthwhile initiative. Please let us know next time how this is progressing. By using your own compost, you are also reducing use of chemicals, packaging, energy etc. Well done for getting involved in the Local Authority Prevention Network. Tell us more about this next time.

Tidiness:

You have been making good progress in giving Glin a tidier image. It was a little untidy at the entrance to the Knight's walk, opposite the Wildflower meadow. Unfortunately the Glin name sign on the Limerick Road has been vandalised. A little attention to weed control is recommended on the path beside the tennis courts. Surfacing is poor and weedy outside the GAA field and this gives a somewhat untidy impression. Be mindful of clutter outside shops such as Adam's and Gala. Your vigilance regarding inappropriate signage is noted.

Residential Areas:

The row of houses opposite the town park was admired. There is a neat terrace of colourful houses near the church. Cloverfield is well designed with great signage and neatly presented bungalows. See also landscaping. On the Ballyhahill Road, Cil Fergus is neatly presented; however the roadside boundary just beyond the entrance gives an untidy impression. The side road opposite Adam's garage has a neat row of private houses facing the river. Pay attention to weed control along the base of this river wall. Please name your streets, roads

and significant residential areas on your map.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The new brown/white tourist information signs on both main approaches are a great addition and hopefully will encourage visitors to stay a while and enjoy all you have to offer. The coastal pathway from the town out the Tarbert Road is well maintained and popular with walkers. One never tires of the stunning views along here. The lovely stone walls surrounding Glin Demesne further enhance this approach road. Work on the Creagh Road footpath is noted. You could enhance the Limerick approach road by trimming your verges from the 'welcome' sign into the village. Similarly, on the Listowel Road – first impressions are important so please keep the grass around the Glin name sign trimmed and tidy. The side road opposite the tennis courts is very attractive due to tree planting and stone walls.

General Impression:

We really enjoyed your visit to Glin. There is a renewed air of pride and neatness about the town and you are making steady progress in all categories. Please provide more detail on how you are engaging with locals/council on derelict properties. Thank you for a fine presentation and we wish you well with future projects.