

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glandore - Cuan Dór** Ref: **1455**
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **311**
Category: **A** Date(s): **14/06/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	36	37
Streetscape & Public Places	80	42	43
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	42	44
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	32	32
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	12	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	66	67
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	38	38
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	38	38
TOTAL MARK	550	306	311

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2022. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór.
Welcome to the Super Valu Tidy Towns Competition for 2022. We thank you for your entry, and wish you all the best in all your future work. Good luck.

- Glandore, Cuan Dor, a small village with a population of 20 people for most of the year – has entered the competition for 5 years approx. and has a committee of 6 members with support of another 5 volunteers.
- The committee meets occasionally and around 10 people work hard through the year.
- Support is received from a small number of national and local agencies/businesses.
- You communicate with members through emails and meetings.
- There is no specific youth involvement with your Tidy Towns work, but 2 families with children under the age of 12 do help out.
- The voluntary work undertaken by Glandore Tidy Towns focuses on the maintenance of the Community Garden which is an important amenity space in the village.

The adjudicator did not see a map of the village lodged with the application. It is always good to provide a map as it facilitates the assessment of your village. Perhaps with more time next year, one can be included.

The quality of the application form is good and informative. The adjudicator's assessment is based on a recent site visit and the contents of the application form which is suitably concise at 11 pages long. The text inserted on the form is also quite easy to read.

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

- The two new signs at the entrance to the village looked well on the day of adjudication and these are enhanced with stone planter surrounds and suitable floral displays. It is noted that you have installed new picnic tables and a new bench in the community garden and have painted and cleaned up the existing benches, removed all broken flower tubs here and replaced them with new ones.
- Glandore is characterised by its wonderfully scenic coastal setting and a small harbour area surrounded by colourful dwellings suitably nestled into the surrounding sylvan rolling landscape. The Marine Hotel Complex is a prominent building in the village but does not unduly intrude. There is a boat floral display feature within this development which has seen better days and can perhaps now be removed/replaced.
- Glandore Harbour Yacht Club was in full swing on the morning of adjudication and it was wonderful to see the enthusiasm of the children eager to learn the rudiments of the sport of sailing.
- The streetscape of Glandore is generally presented to a high standard, including the various infill residential schemes, traditional houses and commercial premises. Well done to all concerned with this.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

- The area around the post box looked well as did the adjoining tourist sign. The white concrete bollards at this location would benefit from a touch up with paint. It was noted also that there were some poles erected in this area which are awaiting signs?
- The adjudicator called to the Glandore Community Garden. This is a wonderful amenity space for the residents in Glandore and commands panoramic views across the bay and coastline. It was noted that the grass is being cut on approximately half the area, whilst the part of the Garden nearest the harbour is left uncut? It is not very clear why this arrangement is in place. It would be preferable to have the same maintenance regime adopted for the entire Community Garden area.
- Because of the steeply sloping nature of the entire site and in the interest of biodiversity, best practise would suggest that a grass strip of approximately 2 m or wider close to boundaries and footpaths should be kept neatly clipped. The remainder can be left to grow as a wildflower meadow and cut once a year or every 6 to 8-weeks, as required. The part of the garden which has not been cut has developed a very attractive species rich grass sward and wildflower mix, which is ideal for pollinators and biodiversity.
- The Rose Garden was visited and this is a very attractive part of the amenity Garden with seating, providing scenic views towards the coast. There is a sapling ash tree growing on the bank on the seaward side of the Garden, which if removed would provide uninterrupted views towards the sea and this should be arranged, at an early date. The concrete block surround to the rose bed is not very attractive could be faced in stone to improve its overall appearance.
- The public toilets were inspected and were found to be presented and maintained to a very high standard. It would be desirable to re-paint the external walls of the toilet block as some discoloration of the paintwork was noted.
- The abundance of Fuchsia and Hydrangea growing in this part of Glandore, which were just coming into flower, was particularly appreciated.

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

- It is heartening to note that you are keeping some areas for wild flowers and bird and bee activity and have gained some pollinator/biodiversity awareness.
- In relation to future projects under this category, your committee may be aware that the New All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) 2021-2025 has now been launched and it is particularly concerning that one third of bee species in Ireland are now threatened with extinction. As well as this Plan, useful guideline documents are now available to Tidy Towns committees to increase the numbers of pollinators in your local area, including guides which are specific to local communities, farmers, councils, transport corridors, sports clubs, businesses etc. Different 'How to Guides' are also available showing how to establish pollinator friendly planting schemes, pollinator friendly roundabouts, use of 'Managed for Wildlife' signage etc.
- This year the AIPP is focussed on gathering survey data to assess the impact of all the good work, groups such as the Tidy Towns are carrying out across the country. The National Biodiversity Data Centre has developed a new app to make this survey work easy for groups through the use of 'Fit Counts'. FIT stands for 'Flower-Insect Timed Count'. FIT Counts are very simple and are a very useful tool for TT groups to measure change in their local biodiversity, especially when they have taken action already for pollinators e.g., at the Glandore Community Garden. By carrying out FIT Counts throughout the year and across future years, it will help track the impact of your actions on insect numbers and diversity as well as providing important data for the National Biodiversity Data Centre (biodiversityireland.ie). It would be good to get local schools involved in these counts. Please follow this link for further information Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT Count) - National Biodiversity Data Centre (biodiversityireland.ie)

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

- You are engaging with local residents and are making business owners e.g., pubs and restaurants more aware of recyclable materials and disposing of waste correctly.
- The adjudicator feels you could achieve more under this category. Some other areas worthy of consideration by Glandore Tidy Towns Committee for the future under this category, which is in keeping with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, include the development of small electric microgeneration schemes for Wind, Solar and Hydro in partnership with the Local Authority and these may also attract suitable SEAI or Leader funding.
- You might look at the provision of public e-car charge points and bicycle stands in the village, and where there are deficiencies, suggest suitable locations where these could be provided in the short term.
- The Committee might also consider in the future initiating membership of the Sustainable Energy Communities programme, run by the SEAI which includes engaging in learning networks, preparation of energy masterplans and local energy action plans etc. The following are useful links in this regard.
<https://www.seai.ie/community-energy/sustainable-energy-communities/>
<https://www.codema.ie/sec>
- The ongoing management of rainwater and floodwater in village areas in the context of climate change is an important topic under this category. This can be a critical issue in relation to preparation for high tides and winter storms in coastal areas. The committee should be aware of the nature-based solutions to the management of rainwater/floodwater and surface water run-off in village areas, water sensitive design, best practice etc. A recent publication by the Dept. of Housing Local Government and Heritage is available and provides important guidance in this regard.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhairacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

- It is noted that even though there are only a few members involved in Glandore Tidy Towns you are out every day a few times during the day, picking up litter and making sure that the local premises and all the visitors keep outside their properties clean and litter free.
- You carry out a regular clean-up of our Terrace Strand and Pier area and segregate the litter as much as possible and bag accordingly.
- On the day of adjudication there were no litter or tidiness problems of note in Glandore - well done.

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

- It would seem that the maintenance of the Community Garden is a significant draw on your resources and probably restricts engagement in other activities. Your work is however, bearing fruit and the regular weeding, litter picking and cutting back the rose beds and hedging etc. has enhanced this area significantly to the benefit of all residents in the village and visitors alike.
- It is recognised that there are a few elderly residents in the village and it is not always possible for them to keep up the regular painting of their houses. However, on the day of adjudication the various residential properties in the village were presented to a very good standard.

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

- The adjudicator is aware that as there are only a few volunteers available in Glandore, you are confined in your clean ups to the main village roads and it is not currently possible for you to maintain the approach and side roads.
- The approach roads into Glandore are generally characterised by very attractive natural stone walls and lush roadside vegetation including Fuchsia, Crocosmia, Bracken Fern and a wide variety of other native plants. It is therefore, not necessary to carry out any major maintenance works on the sides of these roads and concentrating on the village core area for routine maintenance by your committee, is a very reasonable objective under this category.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a great pleasure to visit your beautiful coastal village. Despite limited resources, Glandore can make further strides in the competition, if your committee continues to work hard to improve community spirit and the overall appearance and environs of your village – keep up the good work.