

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Glin** Ref: **455**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **270**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **27/06/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	40	40
The Built Environment	50	39	39
Landscaping	50	36	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	31	31
Litter Control	50	32	33
Tidiness	30	15	15
Waste Minimisation	20	9	9
Residential Areas	40	28	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31	31
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>270</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Welcome Glin Development Association to the 2012 Tidy Towns competition. Your entry is very much appreciated. The entry form does ask that a rough sketch of your village accompany the application form showing street and place names and the location of new work for this year's competition on it. You kindly sent to us 2 maps showing walking trails but there was no new work shown on them.

Well done on recruiting 2 new members to you committee for this year. You have widespread support throughout the community given the number of community organisations that are represented at your meetings.

It is noted that the village is now divided into street areas and that volunteers take responsibility for their own areas.

Your liaison with so may support bodies is good and will be to your mutual benefit.

Your communications programmes involves all media. Please enclose copies of newsletters, press cuttings, etc that feature your Tidy Towns activities. They may be taken into account when marks are being decided and will be returned to you after the competition.

Liaison with the local schools is proactive and creative. And the involvement of the junior committee is commended.

Your festivals/events noted.

## **The Built Environment:**

Your adjudicator noted that the principal project undertaken for this year was the development of 14KM of heritage walking trails in and around Glin and used your draft map to walk a considerable section of the Knight's Walk in the castle demesne. It was an interesting experience. In next year's entry form perhaps you would say if it is planned to paint the galvanised gates along the trail and the bridge handrails. It is noted that signage will be in place during the summer.

The walled, wildflower garden amenity, although not yet finished, looks very well and certainly enhances the area between the two churches and will be very much appreciated by those using the trails. More comments in the Landscaping category.

Both churches are well presented, and there was a lovely smell of wild garlic at the C. of I. church. The Garda Station. looked well and the Library looked very well presented with window boxes.

The castellated entrance to Glin Castle is impressive, standing as it does between the two churches. However, the castellated gate lodge on the road to Tarbert needs to be painted.

School: national school has 1 Green Flag. On adjudication day the school was well presented. Grassed area well maintained. Mature trees. School building will be painted next year.

Glin's former national school, now the community hall, is well painted. Thankfully the temptation to paint the window sills was resisted. On an unpainted stone over a window is 'Glin National School' in an attractive font which is also used over another window saying 'Infants School'. It is good to see them left unpainted.

Main Street looks very well. It is noticeable that many premises/residences have been painted. Conways is eye catching with 'hotel' over the door. It is newly painted as is the adjoining B+B. A bust of Margaret Moloney, the only female harbour master in the world, was noted with interest.

Hamilton Terrace is well presented.

The amenity area beside the river looked very well and your adjudicator's comments on it are divided between this category and the Landscaping category. The bridge over the river is also mentioned in the Roads, Streets and Back Areas category. The bridge is elegant and links both landscaped areas on opposite river banks with style.

The car park was clean and tidy. So, too, were the tennis courts which also had a lovely smell of wild garlic in the air. The playground has lots of colourful equipment and the picnic area, paths and seating also looked well. No litter. Decorative paving, landscaping and seats on the opposite bank are well maintained.

Unoccupied/derelict buildings have been enhanced.

Pier, shelters, lifeguards' area and steps to water all clean and tidy. Plenty of swimmers.

An old mile-stone on the road to Tarbert was noted.

As an Architectural Conservation Area Glin's built heritage is protected. There are some very attractive old shop-fronts in Glin.

## **Landscaping:**

Occupying a key position between the C of I and RC churches, the wildflower garden is a wonderful amenity to have linking 2 trails. It is newly planted and will repay a visit when it has matured. Designed by Catherine Fitzgerald, daughter of the 29th Knight of Glin, her design includes a beech hedge to compliment the very old beech walk in the castle demesne and native Irish species.

The landscaping of the amenity area beside the river is very well maintained. Walking through it the fragrance in the air was delightful.

The main street landscaping is very attractive and also the junction with the Limerick road.

Plenty of hanging baskets added lots of summer colour to Glin.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Your adjudicator saw 2 swans on the river. No sign of cygnets which he has seen with other pairs of swans elsewhere.

The habitat survey carried out by the County Heritage Officer will provide you with the information that you need to plan and prioritise projects in this category.

Your success in basing the trails on natural amenities is commended. Also your retention of the old names which will add authenticity to the trails' heritage content. The locations of the hedgehog box and bird nesting boxes was not given so the adjudicator could not visit them. Were the bird boxes monitored to establish how many were occupied.? What procedures are in place to clean them? Next year's adjudicator will appreciate this information.

We echo your hopes that the curlews and otters thrive in your area. Perhaps your new habitats survey will be of assistance.

**Litter Control:**

The loss of a mark last year in this category seems to have had the desired outcome - there was very little litter evident on adjudication day.

Two locations had litter :

Amenity park at river. Cigarette butts and some scraps of paper.

GAA Ground; recycling centre in car park had some boxes and a black plastic bag tucked away neatly behind the containers but your adjudicator spotted them.. Also, clothing bank had a garment on the ground and some paper and plastic were trapped at the base of the chain-link fencing.

Overall, very little litter evident on adjudication day.

Well done to Glin Festival committee on their 'before and after' litter blitz. Their efforts are to be commended.

Nationwide, littering is a constant problem and has to be tackled with continuous effort.

Well done to all involved in your anti-litter efforts, particularly your new 'street volunteers'.

**Tidiness:**

The verge running along the boundary wall of Glin Castle on the Tarbert road needs weed control. Castle wall on this stretch of road needs repairs. in places.

Well done on the enhancements at the St. Paul's Heritage Centre. Your TUS worker is to be commended.

Your success in tackling the signage problem is commended.

Pole/sign washing noted.

On adjudication day there were no serious tidiness issues in Glin.

**Waste Minimisation:**

Recycling the paper from the training course was a very good waste minimisation initiative. Well done.

With its Green Flag the school will have its waste minimisation programme in operation, even though they might have another name for it.

In your entry form you say that you follow the tidy towns ethos but you do not give examples e.g. "Prevention through education". What actions did you take for this year's competition and how effective were they? For this year another entrant did an experiment based on 10 families. Among the results was the realisation that a lot of unnecessary waste was imported into their village in relation to food i.e. fruit, veg and meat sold on trays covered with cling film. This packaging ended up as waste. They are now encouraging their residents to buy food without such packaging. This example may not suit Glin. It is offered as an example of a Tidy Towns committee being proactive in this category.

The other initiatives mentioned in your bullet points were noted.

The compost/manure initiatives are very good.

### **Residential Areas:**

Glin, being a small, attractive village on the Shannon estuary has to work hard to score highly in this category.. Thankfully, Glin escaped the blight of unfinished/unsold housing estates . You do have dereliction but that has been dealt with in the Built Heritage category.

Hamilton Terrace: well presented.

Kilfergus is well presented. Grassed areas well maintained with lots of young trees of mixed species. Centre of green let grow as a wildlife meadow, Residences well presented. Good entrance.

Cloverfield is equally well presented.

Residences on the Abbeyfeale road are well presented.

As commented on elsewhere in this report residences in the centre of the village are well presented.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Main street resurfaced. Major enhancement. Well done Limerick County Council.

The approach into Glin from the Limerick road is rather bland. A village name sign stands among rather overgrown landscaping. An opportunity lost to give a good first impression of Glin. Other approaches are similar.

This category includes bridges. The main road bridge is not in need of any obvious attention. The metal bridge over the river, bridging each bank, is elegant and has a plaque on it confirming that it benefited from EU grant funds through Failte Ireland.

### **General Impression:**

Glin Development Association has further enhanced Glin for the 2012 Tidy Towns competition. However, your emphasis on the development of trails should be balanced with the Tidy Towns needs of the village. Delegating responsibility to 'street volunteers' should be backed up with the resources needed to keep up their areas. Each of the categories in the Tidy Towns competition should be used to gain marks. Developing trails, whilst commendable, should not deprive the other categories from equal attention.

We look forward to receiving your entry in the 2013 Tidy Towns competition.

Thank you Glin Development Association.