

# Tidy Towns Competition 2011

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glaslough** Ref: **609**  
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **294**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **10/06/2011**  
**02/08/2011**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2010</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	46	46
The Built Environment	50	40	40
Landscaping	50	41	41
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18	19
Litter Control	50	36	36
Waste Minimisation	20	12	12
Tidiness	30	22	23
Residential Areas	40	32	32
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36	36
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>294</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2011 TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for your well structured application form and accompanying details, including, the Multi Annual Programme charting the way forward over the next three years, the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and other comprehensive supporting documentation, all professional in appearance and content. Over the years Glaslough has played a significant role in the TidyTowns Competition, repeatedly a top contender in the County and indeed claiming the National Title back in 1978. As a first time visitor to Glaslough, pride of place immediately springs to mind and your enthusiasm to the competition is evident. The committee of fifteen backed by fifty volunteers is extremely positive and this superb community spirit is benefiting your village and local environs. Your ability to gain support from a variety of agencies and businesses is applauded and we wish you continued success with this as purse stings get tighter. Setting up a Glaslough TidyTowns Facebook page will be a free way of promoting your efforts and will hopefully be a useful tool in generating interest and assist you engage with greater variety of audiences. Hopefully this will be set up during the summer so you can keep your followers updated on your progress in the competition come results time in September. The adjudicator viewed the Glaslough Development Association website. Have you updated the Glaslough Development Association website with a link to your multi annual programme, or provided a section where residents can suggest ideas as recommended in last years adjudication report? This is something that you could incorporate into your proposed social networking site. You acknowledge that you have work to do particularly in some of the newer competition categories and the adjudicator is pleased to see that you have made a concerted effort this year to address this. You will see as you read down this report that your concerted efforts this year are reaping rewards.

### The Built Environment:

The mix of old and new in the village merge extremely well and the village is a delight to explore. Pillar House Hotel was looking extremely well on adjudication day and the marvellous grounds and buildings in the Castle

Leslie Estate is a must see for every visitor. The local shop 'Daybreak' was also looking well and we were glad there was no plethora of unwanted and unnecessary signs outside as you so often see in other villages and town – well done. We are pleased that you are dedicated to conserving and preserving the built environment as demonstrated by the repairs you have carried out on the Famine Walls in conjunction to the FAS workers. You are to be commended for having the foresight to consult with the developer and planning authority in relation to the derelict property on the Main Street which has been sensitively redeveloped, and also in relation to the new Castle Leslie Housing Development. Continue this approach for all village centre development proposals.

### **Landscaping:**

Adjudication took place quite early in the month and it was evident that some hanging baskets were not in place on the New Line Road. The adjudicator can ascertain if these are in place if you successfully progress to the second round of the competition this year. In general, landscaping is to a very high standard and we particularly admired the recently developed rail themed landscaped area on the Caledon/Emyvale road junction.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

You have been busy this year in this category building upon your works from 2010 and you have now embraced this category well. Your efforts in relation to the new the walking trail map prepared in conjunction with Castle Leslie, the update of your Local Biodiversity Action Plan, the construction of the Biodiversity/Wildlife Garden and Butterfly Garden in the village have allowed you to gain marks in this category. We visited both the Biodiversity/Wildlife Garden and the Butterfly Garden. The Wildlife Garden is a wonderful new resource and you have done a lot of work to get it into shape – well done. We particularly admired the seat made from the old tree trunk from the Castle Leslie Estate and the wooden bridge. The Butterfly Garden would benefit from an interpretative sign and possibly a larger variety of similarly coloured flowering plants to provide nectar. The adjudicator would also suggest some screening or building a proper DIY composter for grass cuttings that are currently discarded along the stone wall. We suggest for next year you work in consultation with the local primary schools in developing an information board for the Wildlife Garden.

### **Litter Control:**

Your continued litter programme is working and the weekly participation by the 'Walking Bus' children is a good idea, hopefully this will continue even after the 'Walking Bus' initiative finishes. Some minor items of litter were noted at the play park and near the tennis courts, keep a close eye on these areas during your litter patrols.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

You are doing quite well in the waste minimisation category – the younger generation have been doing more than their fair share particularly in relation to the Green Flag initiative. This adjudicator feels that you need to engage with the villagers in consultation with professionals and establish a more focused approach to improve your marks in this category. The village is currently recycling well and you have extremely good reporting data to back this up. Continue monitoring your data which will allow you to establish a time series of recycling trends. You now need to concentrate your efforts in moving further up the waste management hierarchy towards reuse and waste prevention. We note that you are meeting with the Castle Leslie Estate with regard to food waste management. Your composting and waste prevention workshop for adults being held in July is apt and will contribute to increasing your marks next year so remember to include details in your application. [www.stopfoodwaste.ie](http://www.stopfoodwaste.ie) is a website that you may also find helpful. Speak to the Environmental Protection Agency or the Environmental Awareness Officer at Monaghan County Council on possibly participating in the European Week for Waste Reduction which takes place from the 19th to the 27th of November 2011. Visit [www.ewwr.eu](http://www.ewwr.eu) for more information. The Green Home Programme may also be of interest to your Group [www.greenhome.ie](http://www.greenhome.ie).

### **Tidiness:**

The village was extremely tidy on adjudication day and the adjudicator was very impressed. As a result of your efforts your marks have risen in the category. An observation noted on adjudication day was in relation to the gateway entrance into the field across from the Oakland Centre. We note from your application that the Castle Leslie Village House billboard has been removed from here and this has greatly improved the appearance of this area, however, as the village is maintained to a high standard the untidy gateway here is still very noticeable. Better verge and road finishing here would improve this.

### **Residential Areas:**

Housing in the area is of a very high standard. We visited Tullyree, Ard Banagher, Cul Banagher, Lisbanagher and the new Castle Leslie Village Houses. All were well presented and the adjudicator particularly liked the

stone entrances into the 'Bannagher' estates. Although mentioned in the adjudication report last year, we also have to admire the many birdhouses in the village; these are quirky and welcome features to many of the residential areas and individual houses.

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

You have been busy this year in this category and the works at the Caledon/Emyvale junction are first class. Once again the standard of your approach roads was excellent and your multi-lingual welcome signs do give the village a good sense of arrival and a glimpse of the delights the village holds. This adjudicator also likes the way you promote the Glaslough website on the welcome sign.

### **General Impression:**

We hope that you find the suggestions in this adjudication report helpful and in particular will be able to build upon some of the ideas presented under the waste minimisation category. It was this adjudicator's first visit to Glaslough and it certainly won't be the last. Glaslough TidyTowns - you have raised the bar this year and significantly increased your marks in the competition. We hope you will be able to sustain this level of activity over the next few years and we wish you well with your work programme for the year ahead. Congratulations and well done to all involved!

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

This second adjudicator was delighted to return to Glaslough after a number of years absence. It was marvellous to see the wonderful work being done under their auspices of the TidyTowns committee. The fantastic achievements of the school in the green flag program was a highlight of your application form this year. The TidyTowns committee should work closely with them and learn from the actions they are taking to minimise their environmental impact. How many of these can be applied across the whole community? Your endeavours this year under the wildlife heading are to be commended and your biodiversity action plan was read with interest. There did not seem to be any mention of the integrated constructed wetlands that is being used by the Castle to treat waste and also provides wildlife habitats. This received national press coverage and was visited by then Minister for the Environment John Gormley. The entrance to the town is very well presented with clean kerbing and attractive landscaping. The presentation is just short of flawless due to a set of traffic cones and rubble at an entrance across from the recycling station. The playground and biodiversity garden were admired and the area was practically litter free. The presentation of the built environment is superb with well preserved stonework facades (are these original or has plaster been removed? - something which is not recommended under conservation guidelines). Either way the overall effect is striking. The Pillar House Hotel and Castle entrance looked magnificent quite colourful hanging baskets were admired throughout! The built elements around the old village square are unique features which are enhanced by the evocative nameplates. The green area, while well-kept, is a bit uninspiring and would be perfect for more formal landscaping. Well done Glaslough. I can heartily endorse the first adjudicator's allocation of additional points rear 2011 entry.