

# Tidy Towns Competition 2017

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glaslough** Ref: **609**  
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **330**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **04/07/2017**  
**02/08/2017**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2016</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2017</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	47	47
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	45	45
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	45	47
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	30	30
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	19	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	65	67
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	35	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	38	38
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>330</b>

### **Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:**

Glaslough is most welcome to the 2017 Tidy towns competition. Many thanks for your application form with additional information and map. This is a strong entry from a town with a long Tidy Towns pedigree and it is wonderful to read about the great range of projects which are being undertaken. Don't be afraid of using photos in your application, particularly before and after photos or pictures of people in action as these can give the adjudicator good impression of what was achieved. You have successfully identified your projects using a numbering system and labelled the map accordingly. However, bear in mind that the adjudicator must carry the map around the town during his/her visit. Ideally therefore the key to the map should be on the sheet itself, while a single map would be better than two as it becomes a little unwieldy. Your multiannual plan was reviewed and contains many interesting and worthwhile projects. The adjudicator would have liked an update on progress, given that the plan will conclude in 2018. This could simply be an extra column to tick off completed actions or ones where a start has been made. Clarity and brevity are key. It was impressive to read about the range of social activities underway in the town while the work of the junior tidy towns is especially inspiring. Do keep up this excellent level of energy and commitment.

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

Some of the projects listed under the community involvement and planning section may have been better placed elsewhere. For example, your audio heritage walking trail - which is judged in this category as it involves interpretation of your built environment. This is a wonderful addition to your already extensive range of trails and activities for visitors. You are wished well with your plans for the Greenway extension and architectural statement. These will further enhance your reputation as a heritage destination. Well done on the renovations to the signal cabin and old railway station as well as the numerous other small enhancements which have been undertaken. There is no need to mention every building which was looking well on adjudication day, suffice to say the town looks great. Homes and businesses were throughout presented to a very high standard.

### **Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:**

Congratulations on your selection as an Entente Florale destination. The town was truly looking spectacular, despite the grey clouds, on adjudication day. The coach garden was one such superb arrangement. The abundance of tall trees, particularly of the native or broadleaved variety lend a lush frame to the town's built elements. Great to see these being cared for so well. Indeed the tree trail provides excellent information, the magnificent oak on the Emyvale road being one example. The Main Street was looking first rate with a stunning display of flowers on adjudication day. Well done for this enormous effort. The fantastic community allotments were visited and some very healthy crops were on show. Some discarded piping and wooden spools should be tidied away.

### **Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fíadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:**

You have an energetic programme under this heading and new projects in favour of the pollinator plan are especially exciting. No doubt you will be adding these to the national biodiversity data centre database and this would be useful in contributing to the national programme. Do make sure you are specific here about projects - stating what, when, and by whom. For example the mini-pond project left the adjudicator wondering what exactly was done, what the result was and when it was carried out. Were the fruit trees planted this spring? It is important that the adjudicator knows this as points cannot be awarded for older projects. It is nevertheless excellent that you are adding to the bird boxes and bat boxes. Great to see young people and junior tidy towns are so heavily involved in many of these projects. The biodiversity garden is a wonderful feature - although many of the plants and shrubs seem to be non-native or ornamental.

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

The emphasis here really needs to be on reducing the volume of waste produced rather than recycling (which is more or less taken for granted). At this level of the contest the adjudicator wants to see innovation in tackling bigger issues of food waste, plastic disposal and energy use. What are homes and businesses doing to tackle these? You are engaged in a range of worthy projects and these are excellent. It is not always clear however if these are new, or ongoing from previous years. Well done for all the effort, do try to build on this by researching the circular economy and how Glaslough can reach zero waste. For more helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

As one would expect from a town with the pedigree of Glaslough there were no major tidiness issues of note. Well constructed footpaths and handsome lamp standards help enormously in creating a good impression. The bring centre was very tidy and well screened. Your energetic programme of litter control is evidently paying off as the town was litter free on adjudication day. A small army of people in high vis vests were on duty and clearly this participation is at the core of your success - well done!

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

We were thrilled to read that you have a no pesticides policy in place. Do continually aim to promote this message (and the reasons behind it) to encourage homeowners and businesses to adopt it also. The residents of Glaslough are evidently keen on maintaining high standards and well done to all of them on their work over the past year. Many homes were admired on adjudication day and all were presented to a very high standard. The village square is stunning although the adjudicator feels that the beech hedging and cypress trees serve only to darken and enclose the space. At The Cottages beautifully presented homes were embellished with tall trees and colourful planting displays. Be careful however not to hang baskets of flowers on electricity poles as this presents a health hazard for the workers who may need access them. Tullyree similarly impressed. At Ard Banagher the new playground was being installed and this no doubt will be a fine addition to the area.

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

On approach from Monaghan it is evident that the visitor is arriving somewhere special with the neatly trimmed verges and unique town name signs. The railway station also provides an excellent introduction to the strong heritage of the town. Old stone walls, well-kept kerbing and good road surfacing all contribute to the good impression. On approach along the R185 the large wooden containers with flowers are not really suitable and add little to the already attractive surroundings.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Well done Glaslough on another excellent showing - do keep it up and we look forward to returning in 2018.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

#### **SECOND ADJUDICATION:**

Glaslough: the village with three churches where the horse is king! It was a great pleasure to visit this beautiful village and see it at its best in early August. The weather was kind with some summer showers obliging the freshness of the countryside. Your reputation as a Tidy Village is well established but nevertheless you must perform on the day of adjudication and so there is never time for complacency. Our approach was from Monaghan where we were greeted with a variety of European Flags announcing your entry in the 2017 Entente Florale Europe Competition. Indeed, it would appear your participation in this competition added impetus to your preparation for the National Competition also. Our first stop was at the school which has five green flags and is now an established green school of distinction. Despite being holiday period the school and school garden looked really well and the flowers and shrubs were well presented. Our first evidence of wildlife was when a wild rabbit jumped out of the raised up vegetable garden and fled to the adjoining field. This is an important approach for the village and sets the scene for what lies ahead. The approach road here is attractive and well presented with well managed verges and road structure. The Emyvale approach is well capable of matching the Monaghan approach and the restored Signal Box and allied artefacts provides an interesting introduction. The signal box seems to be everybody's friend and is complimented by the first adjudicator. This same spot is now the subject of a great ambitious project aimed at developing a greenway walk/cycling route in the future. Even the signal box has been landscaped and is now

colourful: a far cry from closure in 1957. Glennan Presbyterian Church is most attractive and further embellished with a number of mature beech trees, together with the adjoining cemetery, stone pillars and walls. Our visit to Castle Leslie complex was enjoyed and this now provides a tourism attraction that includes accommodation, restaurant, and a horse riding establishment. Wish we could reduce the amount signage however.! We loved all the housing estates and the village centre planning is most praiseworthy.