

# Tidy Towns Competition 2014

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glaslough** Ref: **609**  
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **315**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **23/06/2014**  
**19/07/2014**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	47
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	44
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	42
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	30
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	37
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>315</b>

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

Glaslough is welcome to the 2014 SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition, thank you for your submission which although very comprehensive did not appear to include an overall map of the village with projects completed for this year marked on the map and linked to the application form nor did it contain a summary plan of projects covering the next three years. With forty designated committee members and up to fifty volunteers at any given time the Tidy Towns movement in Glaslough is surely one of the most impressive seen by your adjudicator. The wide range of bodies with which the committee has established fruitful links is equally impressive and of course your communication methods which includes an online newsletter as well as other digital media to door-to-door campaigns, the use of questionnaires and good old fashioned 'word of mouth' leaves no stone unturned in Glaslough for the Tidy Towns movement. It was a pleasure to note your Blackwater Heritage Trail information panel and map and your close association with your nearest neighbours. Of course the nature of your engagement with local schools deserve to be noted here also. A look at your calendar of events indicates that there are on-going events every month of the year in Glaslough. It is a great pleasure to note your involvement in Tidy Towns since 1966 and the way the community has grown and benefited since then.

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

The restoration of the Signal Cabin with a section of track is a wonderful achievement and was thoroughly enjoyed by your adjudicator; those involved in this endeavour are to be congratulated. The new pathway in the park is a very practical initiative which will benefit those using wheels in this very popular amenity. The Church of Ireland Parochial Hall is beautifully presented and both flower containers and litter bins here were admired; Scoil Mhuire together with its grounds looks magnificent in all respects and its plastic tunnel has been noted also; by the way congratulations at the cost of the painting work here thanks to the input of volunteers. The castle walls are a visual amenity being clothed with climbing plants; the mixed development of retail and residential enjoy an excellent presentation also. Stone buildings continue to look very well, a remaining dated Guinness sign has yet to be replaced. Work accomplished for the derelict house is acknowledged. It is a pleasure to note the wirescape-free aspect of Glaslough's built environment.

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

Flower displays throughout Glaslough were numerous on adjudication day and were admired for their colour and profusion; practically every residential unit and business premises exhibited a flower display. Trees and shrubberies give year round interest also and the trees provide an invaluable heritage for future generations. The model of the railway station and signal box together with the railway equipment / artefacts installation is an excellent heritage project. Well done on the growing of flowers from seeds for the village in the polytunnel. The Sensory Garden is a

nice touch also.

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

The Glaslough Wildlife Park information panel is excellent; and it is good to note that the Wildlife Trail has a QR facility. The information panel on the crow family is illuminating and your adjudicator has a greater regard now for this species having read the panel; whoever would have guessed that the crow is one of the most intelligent animals on the planet?! The Oakland Recreational Park is not only visually pleasing but enhances the quality of life for the community and of course its biodiversity status is wonderful also. It is good to note that the Glaslough Lake is accessible. A beautiful tree-shaded road located across from the national school features mature trees, could this be developed as a nature walk or indeed another Tree Trail in future years? Congratulations on the completion of the project for the new car park and sports pitch at St. Mary's School. Your other projects such as the willow structure, the moth traps and survey, the installation of Swift and Bat boxes and projects on butterfly and wildflowers are taken account also and we look forward to the installation of new signs in the Butterfly Garden. The Glaslough Integrated Wetlands is an impressive development on many levels and we look forward to having the issue of rights of way and direction signs resolved in the not too distant future; in the meantime it is good to note that it is accessible to all.

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

The installation of Glaslough Waterlinks in six locations is impressive by any standards and their presentation is excellent also. The Up Cycling Garden is excellent in concept and execution. We note your water harvesting activities also. The eco summer camp in July is both a fun project in addition to be educational and promoting an appreciation and awareness of nature. We wish you every success in your Community Allotments Reuse of builders waste. Thank you for the quantitative data on recycling. As you are aware the overall goal under this heading is waste prevention and if you are looking for more ideas to prevent the generation of waste check out the following website: <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/> and consult your copy of the Tidy Towns Handbook

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

The only litter noted at the time of adjudication was two drinks bottles and a blue plastic glove. Other than that no litter was seen anywhere; tidiness is very strong also in Glaslough and we note your participation in the National Spring Clean as well as the Autumn Clean Up. Congratulations also on the School Litter Action days. We note your activity regarding the use of social media for no-litter promotions; and tidiness has been checked by work accomplished on the derelict site and chicken house together with the removal of unsightly signs and the refurbishment of street furniture. A good overall presentation under this heading.

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

The new feature in the Ard Banagher Housing Estate looks particularly well and it is so satisfying to note that the materials used include recycled PVC and glass stones; it is even better still that the design itself needs no maintenance. Well done also on the new trellis fencing around the containers at the Bring Banks. Green open spaces in residential areas were presented to a high standard in all instances on adjudication day. The contribution of residents in Glaslough to the Tidy Towns effort is indicative of an excellent community spirit; almost all dwellings featured flower displays and/or attractive gardens and were well painted.

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

All entrances to Glaslough featured neatly cut verges, identification signs and planting and all create a very good first impression of your lovely village. Street furniture was presented to a high standard and it is good to note those items that were replaced from last year. The use of the old telephone kiosk as a village information point is also a good idea however at the time of adjudication it was less well presented inside as outside, i.e. it was quite untidy with information not organised in a tidy or a coherent manner, perhaps this was just an unfortunate occurrence. Street furniture however was good throughout and the drinking water fountain on the main street is a nice feature. All stretches of stone wall looked well and it was good to note their high level of maintenance, those clothed on top with hedgerow and others with planting were particularly admired. Car parking is well organised and road and footpath surfaces in general look well.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

It is always a delight to visit Glaslough. Your adjudicator had not visited Glaslough for some time and therefore it was heartening to see the developments and improvements in the intervening period, for example, at the Upcycle Garden. Your application, while rather lengthy, is extremely comprehensive and professional. Please print it double sided next year. Your attitude to the competition and your work ethos is enviable and your adjudicator was pleased to read that your committee are very conscious that your efforts should complement, protect and enhance the heritage, architecture and natural amenities in Glaslough. In terms of your map – this needs improvement and indeed linked to your work programme. Your Multi Annual Plan, which takes you up to 2015, is suffice but for an entrant of your calibre please ensure your next plan is more comprehensive with specific actions under each category. Your community involvement, liaison with the school and forward planning in terms of events and projects is excellent. As always the village is greatly admired, buildings look well. Perhaps no further signage at the Daybreak please. Plastering and painting is required around the door of the building where your past Tidy Towns achievements are displayed. Landscaping is to a high standard with coordinated planting and it was nice to see a wildflower garden in bloom, this has been a real success project. The tidying up of the Horse Pond is a new

addition since our last visit which was greatly admired. On our visit the telephone box information point was clean and information displayed in a tidy manner. Your adjudicator is very pleased that you have a clear understanding of the ethos of the sustainable waste and resources category are thinking outside the box in terms of innovative yet meaningful projects. For example, the handbag reuse sale was a worthy project. You tell us you raised an impressive €1,300 however, we would have been keen to know how many handbags were donated and re-sold or the approximate weight of the handbags that were diverted from landfill. For future projects, think in terms of how you can measure the impact of your projects and work. Audit the road markings in the village, some are getting very faded and perhaps it is time to consult the local authority in relation to this. In summary, Glaslough is going from strength to strength and this adjudicator wishes you well for the year ahead.