

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **EYERIES**
County : **CORK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	40
The Built Environment	40	33	30
Landscaping	40	30	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	18
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	16	12
Residential Areas	30	25	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	28
General Impression	10	9	8
TOTAL MARK	300	236	217

Eyeries, Co. Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Yours is a genuine 3-year Development Plan, listing objectives in a systematically phased way. This Committee's attitude to the enhancement of the local environment - and to the competition - is exemplary. Now that Eyeries is entering the upper level of attainment, where comparisons have to be made on a basis of very high standards, it is fair to point out that increases in marking will be harder to come by. The time spent walking through and admiring this village this year was one of real discovery and delight - this adjudicator had not been in the area for over a decade, and the interim changes have been remarkable.

THE BUILDING ENVIRONMENT

The Church is wonderfully well integrated with the village precinct - a spiritual metaphor may be drawn from this. The plain interior and the fine contemporary stained glass windows deserve to be appreciated by a greater number of visitors if this can be discreetly achieved; postcard reproductions of the glass might be produced (incidentally, good postcard views of Eyeries are few). The school is well kept. Most of the abandoned buildings have been fairly well disguised - those with creepers most successfully. Presumably the local authority is encouraging reinstatement of village houses rather than the proliferation of bungalows on the outskirts. It is unusual to see corrugated-iron roofs so praiseworthily painted, but there remains one rusty roof near the new walls at the elbow of the street.

LANDSCAPING

In this category, as well as in aspects of the foregoing category, restraint and good taste prevail. It is clear that a smart suburbanisation is being avoided. It was good to see a variety of locations treated in a variety of ways, from the roadside nasturtiums which set the tone at the main road junction to the formal planting opposite O'Sullivan's and the rampant growth on the rocky outcrop opposite Murphy's. Small 'corners' of appropriate planting were noted with pleasure. The new landscaping at the Eyeries sign on the northern road out of the village has a somewhat imposed look at present, but this will disappear as the plants proliferate.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The very fact that "21 different bird species apart from the visiting migrant birds" had been identified shows that this category is not being given the lip-service occasionally met with elsewhere; nesting boxes and feeding tables were favourably noted. Markers indicate how walks have been systematically routed. The development of the streamside was admired.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was good, as last year. Congratulations.

TIDINESS

Dereliction apart, this is a particularly tidy village. Where sites have been cleared and replaced by planting, picnic-tables, etc. there is a need for ongoing maintenance, such as weeding of gravel. (A point to watch for in the future is how untidy signs of every description tend to accumulate at road junctions and on approaches, once a village becomes a popular stopping-place).

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The painting of the older village houses is extraordinary; somehow the effect manages to stop short of the garishness which this adjudicator feared to find when reading the Development Plan. The preservation of traditional housefronts, as exemplified by one where there are 'Gothic' glazing-bars on the ground floor, is admirable.

ROADS,STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The husbandry of verges, hedges and roadside banks strikes the right balance between what is neat and tidy and what is environmentally desirable. Entrances and laneways are well looked after. The WC was hygienic on adjudication day. Removal of poles and wirescapes might be added to the Development Plan, say at Year 4, with the help of the appropriate authorities. New stone boundary walls were very much admired.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A village of immense integrity and charm, at present receiving sympathetic improvement by a dedicated community.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (9/8/97)

Eyeries is a charming seaside village set in rocky rugged scenery and is in itself a composition in vernacular heritage. Its presentation was simple yet marvellously effective resisting the temptation to over prettify! Most of the buildings of the village were sharply fresh in their colourful shades - even the public lavatories were extremely fresh and the residents have resisted the temptation to over elaborate by the use of floral displays, hanging baskets, window boxes etc. The nasturtiums at the crossroads on the Castletownbere Road were admired as were the monbretia in the hedgerows and the display of antique agricultural machinery. Landscaped areas throughout the village were of an incidental variety, in some cases to disguise dereliction, and were very well presented and maintained. A traditional vernacular house beyond the village on the Kenmare Road was admired for its simplicity and was very sympathetic to the nature of the village itself. The wild heather to the hedgerows along this road was also admired. Even the derelict buildings of the town were painted freshly. One minor note of warning would be to repaint the roof of the tin shed by the telephone box and lavatories which should be freshly painted in its traditional green.