

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Eyeries**

Ref: **571**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **269**

Category: **A**

Date: **03/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	47	47
The Built Environment	40	36	35
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	24
Litter Control	40	37	36
Tidiness	20	18	17
Residential Areas	30	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	34
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	269	263

Overall Developmental Approach:

It was a pleasure for the adjudicator to carry out the Eyeries adjudication. In a relatively few years, spectacular progress has been made in the overall presentation of the village. The economic benefits of this to the community are now obvious for everyone to see. The map and report provided with the entry form were most helpful on adjudication day. Though there is a very small committee at work in Eyeries, it is obvious that there is genuine community wide support for environmental improvement.

The Built Environment:

Perhaps the strongest feature of Eyeries is the use of very vibrant colours, blue, green, purple, etc. These, in combination with others, gives a most effective visual appearance to the village. The major problem of dereliction that was such a difficulty for so many years is now practically resolved. You have been very clever in how you have disguised the few derelict properties that still remain. The new infill housing fits perfectly with the older fabric of Eyeries. It is noted that the church is due for repainting in 2003. What about using a strong brave colour for this? The post office looked really well with a very simple presentation, as did the health centre and the toilets block.

Landscaping:

Very good small scale landscaping is another excellent feature of Eyeries. The new trees and shrubs at the Strand Road area are a good addition. The development of the Loop Walk is a much used local feature that echoes the very strong walking product in the general area. The informal display of old farm machinery creates another aspect of rural interest for visitors to the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The survey to establish the range of local flora and fauna was a worthwhile undertaking. It is most encouraging to see that you are now planting specific shrubs that will attract bees and butterflies. The adjudicator noted that the road to the strand area is blocked by a closed gate, however, there may be a valid reason for this. This is unfortunate, as it will deter some visitors from visiting this area. The pier area is attractive, but the access road to both the pier and the strand is in very poor condition. Perhaps remedial works are already underway.

Litter Control:

On the day of adjudication, litter control was very good. It is however difficult to maintain this standard year after year. The strand clean-up project is noted. The competition in the national school to raise litter control awareness was an excellent initiative and perhaps this should be repeated each year.

Tidiness:

At Eyeries Park, weed growth was noted at the bottom of the chain-link fencing that forms the road boundary and this needs early attention. The completion of the project to underground all ESB cables is now completed and this work has made a significant difference to the visual appearance of the village.

Residential Areas:

All private houses were excellently presented and practically all had been freshly painted in the recent past. The strong use of colour is really effective. Private gardens are being well maintained and a few have been able to incorporate natural landscaping features into their garden design.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads all looked well on adjudication day and a very effective "natural" presentation style has been used. As indicated earlier in this report, the road to the pier/strand needs urgent attention if these facilities are to be used to their maximum effect by local residents and visitors. On the approach from Ardroom, the 2001 Tidy Towns Bronze Award Winner plaque is still there - surely this is out of date at this stage, especially considering the village won a Silver Medal in 2002.

General Impression:

Congratulations on the work that you have done for the 2003 Tidy Towns Competition. Eyeries continues to retain its considerable charm and appeal. The total commitment of the local community to the improvement of the village is so obvious to even the most casual observer.

Second Round Adjudication:

Signage at the high road junction, at the main Kenmare/Castletownbere Road looked grubby and in need of washing due to red algae growth. Eyeries looked as bright and well presented as ever. The magnificent displays of montbretia were greatly admired on approaching the village. Landscaping was of the highest standard. Of particular note being the flower-topped stone walling. A ruined cottage with blocked-up windows to the far side of the village looked unfortunate. It is to be hoped

that it will be developed in the not too distant future. A merest paint would, however, make all the difference as a short term measure. A blue gable wall was quite stained in the village centre. It was extremely heartening to note the significant number of houses that have retained their original sash windows! Eyeries is a magnificent village, maintained to the highest of standards, set in some spectacular scenery which continues to set a fine example to other villages in the country.