

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Eyeries**

Ref: **603**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **274**

Category: **A**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	48	48
The Built Environment	40	37	37
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	26
Litter Control	40	37	37
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	37	36
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>272</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Eyeries is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission this year which included a beautifully illustrated map, your three year plan and general information about your lovely village. The view of Eyeries from the Castletownbere approach road was quite stunning with the wonderful colours of the built environment complementing the backdrop of low hills. Your location on the coast together with a rural hinterland gives Eyeries the best of both worlds. We commend your two pronged approach to managing your lovely village which involves the maintenance of work carried out over previous years (which is no small task) and planning projects for the future to resolve existing problems and at the same time, taking advantage of new opportunities as they present. Well done for work achieved for this year under the built environment, wildlife and natural amenities, litter control and residential areas.

### The Built Environment:

The presentation of the church is magnificent both to the exterior and interior, well done for this standard of excellence. Sullivans Foodstore and adjoining residence together with O'Sheas Bar and the Post Office are all beautifully presented. It was good to note the absence of plastic neon signage. The village centre is a successful combination of commercial and residential buildings and landscaping. The national school, health centre and the public lavatories enjoy excellent maintenance.

## **Landscaping:**

The beautifully landscaped area which featured the agricultural equipment is an attractive and appropriate visual amenity for Eyeries. We commend the wisdom of the limited use of formal bedding plants and the preference for wild flowers. The former have their place for flashes of colour but the latter are more appropriate given the lovely setting of Eyeries. Well done on the maintenance of road verges, fences and open areas in general, the new sign was admired. Given your coastal locations plants have to be carefully chosen and those with a high tolerance for wind and salt spray have the best chance of success, this of course limits your choices, however your work to date under this heading is admirable.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Eyeries boasts the best stand of monte bretia seen by this adjudicator anywhere on the island this year. It is good to note that you are aware of the wildlife significance of buddleia, cotoneaster, cedum and spirea and that you consciously leave wild flowers growing in walls and fences. We are interested in your wild bird survey and the recording of twenty two species together with an increasing number of bats; have these details been submitted in previous years? Your walking route linked to the Berra Way which takes in seashore, farms, and country lanes is a valuable recreational amenity facility in addition to being important for wildlife, perhaps discrete wildlife panels could be located along the way. It is good to note that all farmers are involved in REPs and organic farming schemes. The strand was faultless in terms of litter and tidiness for adjudication; the road leading to it is probably the worst ever experienced by this adjudicator anywhere in the country, we appreciate however that this is outside of your control but do not allow this to stop you from making appropriate representations.

## **Litter Control:**

Litter control was excellent for adjudication. We note from your submission that there is a daily litter picking routine from April for the summer. We have also taken cognisance of your 'clean up' in April for one mile out approach roads and along the shoreline. These activities together with the school project which includes a poster competition for heightening awareness for the need for litter control are effective and play an important role in maintaining Eyeries and environs litter free, well done.

## **Tidiness:**

Derelict remains are well painted and neatly boarded to their window and door apertures which minimises their possible negative visual impact, well done. The village boasts an overall ambience of tidiness, there being no weedy derelict unkempt side and rear areas to be seen. It is good to note that the committee works in cooperation with the council in this respect.

## **Residential Areas:**

All dwellings in the village are beautifully painted and presented to a standard of excellence; the pink house was particularly admired for its wonderful shade of grey! We note from your submission two new housing developments in the pipeline for Eyeries and commend your aspiration to work both with developers and new residents. New developments present both opportunities and challenges; the challenge will of course be to generate enthusiasm amongst new residents for the Tidy Towns Competition and overall pride in the village and the opportunity will be to get new blood and more hands on board for the Tidy Towns effort. No doubt the grant of permission for a new dwelling located across from the Post Office has ensured that this development will complement the character of Eyeries.

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

The namestone on the Castletownbere entrance looked particularly well and the enclosed photograph was appreciated; the stone wall which featured planting on top was admired also. A large part of the village is wirescape free and no doubt the remaining cables will be ducted in the not too distant future. The stone walls on the northern approach road looked well having been cleared of excess growth. As mentioned previously the road to the strand is really bad and also mentioned above is the presentation of the public toilet block which was excellent to the extent that they are probably the best seen anywhere in the country. Street furniture is simple but its simplicity is part of its beauty and all were presented to a standard of excellence.

## **General Impression:**

Eyeries stands amongst the most beautiful and best presented villages in Ireland; this is a wonderful achievement for such a tiny community and we are all indebted to you.

## **Second Round Adjudication:**

An excellent performance by Eyeries, which was a blaze of colour on a warm sunny August evening. Indeed colour is very much a feature of the village and the floral display is full length and full width. The absence of overhead cables add immensely to the appearance of the village and help to maintain your standards. We notice ten new accommodation units are planned for the village and we hope they will blend in with the character of the village. The road down to the strand is really substandard and hazardous in places. The signage is also misleading. We saw evidence of some very untidy back yards and some building materials are also causing untidiness. We hope these will be tackled soon as they were mentioned last year also. You are at a stage in the competition where attention to detail is important. We commend you on your ability to motivate the community and the fruits of your labour are very much in evidence, especially with the freshly painted houses in the area. Thanks also for a splendid illustrated map: an adjudicator's delight. Well done on raising your marks again.