

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glengarriff**

Ref: **283**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **230**

Category: **B**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	34
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	31	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	20
Litter Control	40	28	25
Tidiness	20	14	9
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	23
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>208</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Glengarriff is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Like its nearest neighbours Glengarriff enjoys a magnificent coastal setting on Bantry Bay which affords wonderful seascapes and landscapes. The eastern entrance into the village shows Glengarriff at its best against the backdrop of the Cahahans mountains; the view of the bay with its boats and of course Garinish Island is memorable; wonderful views are also a feature of the Castletownbare Road. Thank you for your well thought out submission and supporting information, the before and after photographs were particularly useful. It is good to note that the Tourist and Development Association which entered Glengarriff into the Competition enjoys the financial labour and materials support from the local community and works with statutory bodies such as the County Council. The use of the local press together with guided walks and well appointed signage facilitates communication to the wider community. Being located on a national primary route of course bring problems of through traffic and we note a reference to a traffic calming plan. We wish you every success in its implementation and hope that it achieved its objective. Well done also to FAS workers who have an important role to play in the overall presentation of Glengarriff.

### The Built Environment:

The Eccles Hotel is beautiful and continues to enjoy a presentation of excellence; it is unusual to see sash windows retained on such a large building. The old church together with its grounds (now a

Coffee House) was admired as were the following premises: The Spinning Wheel, Quills, The Cottage Bar and Restaurant, The Village Kitchen, The Martello and The Galleries. Flower displays on both Caseys Hotel and the Garda station were especially profuse and colourful, those at the door of the Catholic Church were also admired and the simple but well maintained grassed areas were complementary. The Post Office was beautifully painted and the Connemara Guesthouse looked well also. The awning to the Black Cat premises is not attractive and this type of fixture should be discouraged, if canopies are necessary then the traditional canvas retractable type is preferred.

### **Landscaping:**

We note development work at Sand Quay / Pier, The Blue Pool Ferry Departure Point and the graveyard. The eastern approach into Glengarrif was marked by neatly maintained high hedgerow backed by trees, shrubs, displays of wildflowers and giving way at intervals to stands of mature trees. The entrance to the Bamboo Garden looked well and the gardens themselves are fascinating. Flower displays throughout the town and on approach roads were admired and have already been referred to but those to the roadside of the Eccles Hotel were stunning, as were those at the junction of the Kenmare and Castletownbere Roads. Different varieties of Cordyline built into the sea wall are a nice touch, no doubt these species were chosen for their high salt and wind tolerance. The outcrop of bare rock-face at the top of the Kenmare Road is a wonderful feature which balances seasonal flower displays. Where possible try to plant native species as these increase the diversity of wildlife habitats.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The path to the strand was clearly signposted and the children's play facility at the picnic and general green recreation area was nicely presented. The Glengarrif Nature Reserve is a wonderful development and was being thoroughly enjoyed by both the adjudicator and the general public on adjudication day; it features wonderful nature trails, woodland areas, rivers, picnic areas, seating etc. and is presented to a high standard. Glengarrif is at the centre of a special area of conservation and of course features many natural amenities, the bat caves are interesting. The railings over the Glengarrif River might be painted to freshen its appearance together with nearby seating. We note proposed plans for Glengarrif and environs under this heading and anticipate future developments.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control was excellent on adjudication day. It is good to note your liaison with the local office of Cork County Council in this regard which has secured daily road sweeping and servicing of litter bins. Well done on your participation in the Litter Challenge Competition also and on the enlisting of voluntary labour. Your work with the Glengarrif National School over the past few years has also been noted including the mini recycling centre at the school.

### **Tidiness:**

Your activities regarding weed control is effective, some stretches of weedy kerb were noted but these were not prevalent. The recycling point was neatly presented, congratulations on its upgrading from the converted refuse skip, we look forward to further developments here. It is good to observe that the local mariculture industry is now involved in a recycling scheme for plastic buoyancy barrels. Building materials on the Kenmare Road (gravel chipping) was noted. Can these be relocated from public view?

### **Residential Areas:**

Gardens to dwellings on the Castletownbere Road were quite magnificent and featured beautiful stone wall boundaries. Elevated dwellings on the eastern entrance featured a gentle sweep in their gardens to the road. The Dalewood Holiday Home development looked well as did the Harbour View House development. Well done on the Awards of Merit competition to encourage the better

presentation of all properties. It is good to note that the committee interacts with private developers to ensure the fine standard of presentation at the close of their projects. Your ongoing negotiations with Cork County Council, FAS and the Rural Social Scheme has been effective in ensuring the maintenance of open spaces and green areas; we are aware of course that the majority of private dwellings are being presented to a standard of excellence by their occupants.

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

Approach roads to Glengarrif are quite well presented both to their roadside verges and hedgerow. Nameplates are nicely presented also and the Welcome sign together with the 'Anniversary' sign of the Battle of Dunboyne on the eastern entrance was appreciated. Road surfaces, footpaths and stretches of hard shoulder together with stone boundary walls are nicely presented, however some stretches of stone wall on the Castletownbere Road are breached in sections. The car park at the Ferry Departure point is in need of resurfacing however it is tidy and the well surfaced footpath here was observed. On-street car parking is orderly and is organised on a side to kerb basis which reduces visual clutter. It was a pleasure to note the wirescape free status of some areas of the village centre. The proposed conservation study for the old Cromwell's Bridge is interesting and we look forward to developments here. We wish you well with your traffic calming measures.

### **General Impression:**

Glengarrif is a beautiful village located at the heart of an area of special amenity. The appearance of the town complements wonderfully the natural beauty of its environs. The interest and commitment of the community is evident.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

The village looked really delightful on a very early morning second inspection in August. Indeed, the Inner Harbour and Blue Pool looked idyllic and the heron and kingfisher obliged with their presence. There was a high degree of colour throughout and the great rich floral display was complemented with freshly painted premises. The Susan Murphy playground is excellent. The individual effort throughout the village is praiseworthy. You have a couple of open spaces that are unsightly e.g., opposite The Mortell and the open area opposite the T.I.O. The cluttered signage at the end of the village is excessive from both approaches, despite the well presented landscaping here. The chainlink fencing leading up to Scoil Fhiachna is poor and could be much improved. The cluster of houses on the Kenmare approach were well presented. Road surface at Casey's hotel needs improving. Both the inner harbour and Blue Pool areas are well presented and free of litter: indeed we observed litter collection at 8 a.m. by local council staff. The best wine was kept 'till last when we visited the Nature Reserve: superb entrance, approach road and a delightful nest of mature oak trees at the car park. Well done to all concerned on a fine performance, for which you have raised your marks significantly.