

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## **Adjudication Report**

Centre: **Eyeries** Ref: **738**  
County: **Cork (West)** Mark: **291**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **27/06/2007**  
**12/08/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	45
The Built Environment	50	39
Landscaping	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	31
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>291</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Eyeries is welcome to the Tidy Towns Competition 2007. Your completed application form, additional information and most impressive map were of great assistance to the adjudicator. However, it is imperative that you have a Three-Five Year Development Plan detailing your programme of work into the future – this was omitted and is imperative at this stage in the competition. Whilst you have seven core members to your Tidy Towns Committee it is wonderful to see that the entire community is deemed to be involved and intrinsic to the progress of Eyeries. Your continued co-operation with supporting agencies has been noted and it is good to see that the competition encourages local pride in Eyeries – and rightly so!

### **The Built Environment:**

Stone boundary walls at various locations throughout the village are well maintained and certainly add to the urban fabric of Eyeries. The pump looked fresh on the day of adjudication and as mentioned in your application the public toilets were clean and crisp in their presentation. Amongst the buildings admired in the village were the Church, O'Shea's Bar, O'Sullivan's Foodstore and the Health Centre. The School grounds were beautifully landscaped and the Priests House too looked well. The small shed at the entrance to Cluain Carraigeach should be whitewashed before next year's competition. It is good to see that you are realistic in your approach to dereliction – your camouflage work is effective and hopefully a number of the sites will be occupied in the years to come.

### **Landscaping:**

The welcome stone on the Castletownbere Road was colourful and well presented as was the triangular flowerbed opposite. Pretty summer blooms atop the stonewalls added a welcome splash of colour to the village approach. The picnic area and garden to its rear were greatly admired. There is a good mix of seasonal and permanent planting evident in Eyeries and this is commendable. A black and red birdhouse

looked most attractive in the village. Whilst the presence of wildflowers is commendable in back areas, be careful not to let them grow too freely as this will give an untidy appearance.

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

Signage for 'Shore Angling on the Beara Peninsula' was noted close to the coastline. Two birdhouses were also spotted one in blue and one in red and black. The minor roads were abundant with honeysuckle, ferns, brambles and foxgloves. It is encouraging that the school children get involved in the beach clean-up and that improvement works are seen to benefit the entire community. The preliminary ecology assessment makes interesting reading and is a good platform to develop a local conservation programme. We look forward to the impending recommendations.

#### **Litter Control:**

Your inclusive approach to litter control is commended and it appears that young and old partake. However, on the day of adjudication it appears that the standard of litter control has slipped a little since last year's competition. The Strand Road had a number of outbreaks and a single piece of litter was noted in the garden area behind the picnic table. The recessed path close to the Post Office contained a few pieces of litter also.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

The teachers and students of the National School are heartily congratulated on their wonderful achievement in gaining Green Flag Status! You mention in your entry that series of cleanups occur at various locations throughout the year. It is not clear however how you dispose of the litter collated. It should be segregated and recycled when possible. Last year's adjudicator suggested that you develop a composting area and this is a natural progression from your achievements to date. Keep up the good work!

#### **Tidiness:**

The streetscape was well presented and overall quite crisp in appearance. The many public seats and benches were well painted and in a good state of repair. Your effort to enhance derelict buildings is commendable and certainly gives a tidier appearance to Eyeries. Some building rubble and topsoil was evident at one of the new housing developments and this should be removed as soon as possible. The coastal approaches to Eyeries afford views of the back of the main street and it is imperative that each property owner be encouraged to present the rear of their premises to a high standard.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Coulbeg B&B is a most welcoming beacon on the Castletownbere Road. The newly built residences displaying a mix of stone and rendered finishes were well painted and crisp in presentation. The brightly coloured street houses looked great and window boxes were in abundance! The small pink residence opposite the Health Centre was greatly admired. Finally the newly completed development, Cluain Carraigeach was immaculately presented.

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

Roads, Streets and back areas are generally well maintained. The Eyeries Beg Road was a little overgrown on the day of adjudication. The Strand Road was well maintained and the green and yellow styles were admired.

#### **General Impression:**

It was a pleasure to adjudicate Eyeries on a fresh sunny morning. The village offers a myriad of natural amenities and has a pleasant streetscape. Your committee are congratulated on your work so far and we look forward to your continued progress in the Tidy Towns.

#### **Second Round Adjudication:**

The visit was very easy and enjoyable on the day of the second adjudication because of the beautiful mountain and sea scenery, the bright sunny weather and also an interesting drawing (map) in three dimensions submitted by the group.

The streets are very attractive and are of village scale throughout. They are, perhaps because of the village's use as a film set, very brightly coloured and perhaps in places too vibrant for relaxing.

We share your frustration at problems regarding derelict buildings close to the new housing development at Cluain Carraigeach. These should in time be renewed. In the meantime the walls might be freshly whitewashed / painted and the corrugated roof might be painted. The white wall abutting the recessed picnic

area on the other side of the street also needs repainting, as do other surfaces.

The new housing development contains new shops including a proposed Post Office relocation. The church whilst very attractive needs repainting of the "buttress" walls. We understand how difficult it is to keep these walls clean in a wet summer, as cars park alongside, and the street abuts the church.

Causkey's Bar is a very attractive building with an interesting forward projecting wing which requires painting. In the same street, on the same side, there is a dry stone dashed wall on a flatroofed house. This would be more in keeping in flat plain plaster similar to others around. O' Shea's Bar was very well presented as was O' Sullivan's colourful shopfront.

There is a very attractive new picnic area which is beautifully landscaped and on the sunny day that was, hosted picnickers with a beautiful view of the bridge and the mountains in the near distance.

On the village side of this bridge there is a very attractive dry stone wall with old personal effects including an old chimney arch with cooking pots and a pair of socks and walking boots drying nearby! This was very amusing!

Above the same wall is a B&B sign (with a rusting upright) which should be removed.

The new housing development at Eyeries Beg Road was very well presented and as noted by the second round adjudicator in 2006 retains as an inclusion an earlier building, which is excellent.

Back areas appeared attractive and neat. In general some care should be taken to screen and landscape ugly back walls which can be clearly seen when approaching the village along Strand Road. The rear of O'Sullivan's premises also needs screening here as it contains hardware materials which are difficult to store in a tidy fashion externally. Likewise, as mentioned in a previous adjudication "retail goods on pavement areas was noted and this practice should be discouraged as it looks unsightly and can cause problems for the disabled."

Dreenagh Road gives access to the Pier and a walking route stile has been provided near the Pier. There is a very good sign here on the seafront depicting types of fish also containing Irish (and Latin) names. This all gives access to the magnificent Loop Walk through countryside and seascape.

On the day of the second adjudication the village was litter free and tidy, the only exception was dumping of broken blue and wooden colour timber pallets on this (Dreenagh) road, just outside the speed limit signs as one approached the village. They were thrown in a brook on the South side of the lane. Some barns in the back fields are in need of maintenance. Furthermore there are many gates and posts that are painted (particularly admired was the green and white piers and gates at Strand Road) but there are many that are not.

The approach roads were very attractive and well landscaped with good signing. However some boundary fencing on the Old Road directly in the vicinity of the new seat (on both sides) needs replacing/repair. In general the area opposite the seat needs cleaning up also. This approach (Old Road) also contains the very simple and elegant grassy space where the brown and white Tidy Town sign is so attractively sited. The school murals, although excellent, are becoming discoloured from traffic and parking.

Eyeries has developed a very uniform style and scale throughout the village and looked very colourful and attractive in its beautiful landscape, and sea setting. Because of the extraordinary setting the bright colours worked well, but some softening would be good for the relaxation of those who live there! Well done Eyeries!