

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Glengarriff** Ref: **676**  
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **282**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **16/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	37
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>282</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Congratulations to Glengarriff Tourism and Development Association for participating in the Tidy Towns Competition 2009. Thank you for your submission, for the map which is most helpful in negotiating one's way along. Your supplementary submission on Glengarriff is an impressive compilation and augurs well for the development of Tidy Towns in Glengarriff in the foreseeable future. The increased marks gained by Glengarriff in recent years is the result of your planned, measured initiatives. Your engagement with the many agencies mentioned in the submission suggests that your relationship with them has been beneficial to furthering your ambitions for the town. Well done on your interaction with the school in their pursuit of Green Flag Status. The photographs in the submission were also most helpful in giving one a village sense before arrival.

### **The Built Environment:**

The photos of the before and after of the Parish Hall tell one much about the built environment of Glengarriff. Without the attention of groups like yours the 'before' could be the norm. Now you can boast of fine buildings as in the school, the Church, the health centre, the Garda station with its traditional appearance. All adding to the splendour of the town. After the sweeping bends that lead one into Glengarriff the street could be a dull straight line. Not so. The business community have seen to it that the passer-by will stop a while. Shop fronts are magical in their striking colours and their landscaping. Attractive street furniture bids one stop and sup awhile. Recent developments have added to the visual interest through modern design. Parking does not appear to be a problem. Visitors wander around with ease, suggesting relaxation among these buildings and colour. As one walks from the Poll Gorm one is treated to the stonework of the Irish Craft Centre. Pass by the toilets, looking well and also clean. Across the road Quills seems to have been the inspiration for the stone. The outcropping stone reminds one that this town is a natural gift, the buildings, though so inviting, temporary residents. O Connells is proof.

### **Landscaping:**

Glenn Garbh was well landscaped before the arrival of its first inhabitants. All that is left to do is to enhance the impression made by man on this natural splendour. The town is ablaze with colour. As the rhododendron flowers fade the blue hydrangea is taking its place. What a pity that the rhododendron is seen as an infestation! The bedding plants at every corner one glances at add seasonal colour also. The baskets and barrels have not appeared by chance but as a result of a carefully thought-out, coordinated plan. All businesses on the street have bought into beautifying Glengarriff and the result befits the dream world of the wooded, coastal holiday village. The prize here must go to the landscaping at the Quik Pick area. The little bed at the bridge...lovely.

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

Glengarriff is a wildlife paradise. The scenery changes with every turn on the road from Bantry. One moment the picture is dominated by the mountains and hills, the next by the forests and wooded areas. Then the sea dominates. All the while one listens to the streams gushing downhill as they arrive at their promised land. Your intervention in providing an amenity area is a great achievement. The walkway down at the ferry point gives access to the mysteries of the wood and sea. The presence or promise of seals excites. None to be seen but we know that we arrived at a bad time. Some information boards, as that on the aquaculture, suggest research. : Do you know what birds visit and at what time of the year? Are your bird boxes suitable for those birds? Is there appropriate feed for the birds that visit? What of the fish? In next year's submission mention what surveys have been undertaken. Comment on 'the future direction of the development of Bernard's Pool' is beyond the terms of reference of this report.

### **Litter Control:**

One notes your difficulties with the County Council. One feels that responsibility for creating a litter free town will increasingly become the task of each local community. Hence the importance of emphasising litter reduction as well as investing so much time in litter collection. The town was a joy to visit with very little litter evident either on the street or in amenity areas. And this was on a busy day with many people stopping as well as there being a heavy throughput of traffic.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Your disappointment with last year's mark is noted but this section is a challenge. Well done on the ongoing work. A special mention for your support of the Green Flag Status pursuit by the school. Has the Green Flag Status been achieved? It could benefit an ambitious committee such as yours to study the booklet 'Race Against Waste'. Such a study would stimulate new waste elimination projects for you. Remember that the emphasis in this section is not on litter control but on minimising waste in your community.

### **Tidiness:**

Tidiness is not achieved by accident. It means the elimination of various irritants like roadside weeds, poor road surfaces and potholes, dirty signposting, crisscrossing cables. Only one of these issues is a cause of concern for Glengarriff. It means that buildings must not look shabby, that walls are not falling down, that there is an overall impression of care. Glengarriff achieves highly here. This adjudicator would like to see the dead roadside grass strimmed also. There are some instances of dereliction, problematic but one is sure that the elimination of this problem is on your wish list. All unused posts should be removed. All of the recreational seats need a coat of paint and maybe a brighter colour might be contemplated. This is a tourist town. Therefore one must advertise their wares. But there is need to keep control of the advertising.

### **Residential Areas:**

The housing on the road from Bantry helps to create the colourful charm that pervades all parts of Glengarriff. Throughout the village the gardens of the private houses enhance their surroundings. Within the village the strong contrasting colours, for instance at the Gem Collection terrace, lift the heart. Most of the holiday home estates also add to their surroundings but the Harbour View Leisure Village need to decide what their landscaping philosophy is. The terraces of single storey houses beyond the speed limit sign may be outside your remit but they deserve a special mention. They sit gracefully on the bend on the road and raise expectation of greater things to come.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

One sweeps downhill into the Gleann through a series of bends. From Bantry the town unveils itself in stages, as one winds into town, all stages producing their own charm. The neat and well maintained walls give clear definition and sometimes stall the march of the invading wilderness. The stretch of wall is nicely broken with the seating. Parking for fine summer days is spacious. On the Castletownbere and Kenmare approach roads the steep incline of outcropping rock is an attractive natural feature. That same rock is a striking presence throughout the village as if to remind us of the 'Garbh' in Glengarriff. The pandemic of vehicle dumping on the road to Lady Bantry's Look-Out needs to be addressed.

**General Impression:**

A lovely place to pass through. A wonderful experience for an afternoon. One feels an inspiring place to live in. The miracle of the natural surroundings is replicated in the imagination of the hand of man. Remain progressive and ambitious.