

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Eyeries** Ref: **738**
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **299**
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/06/2009**
21/07/2009

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	46
The Built Environment	50	40
Landscaping	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	33
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	13
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	299

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to the Eyeries TidyTowns Committee for participating in the TidyTowns Competition 2009. Thank you for your submission, for the photos, your Developmental Plan and for your maps. A hand drawn sketch of the town which highlights the places you regard as being most important for the TidyTowns Competition is a great help to the adjudicator. Ensure that only material relevant to this competition is included in your submission. The number on committee surprises one but the addendum 'but whole community involved' gives the fuller picture. Not only must you have local support but your engagement with the various agencies must be to your advantage. Well done. You have achieved much over the past twenty years. Creating a beautiful environment in which to live takes time, vision and planning. Long may your success continue.

The Built Environment:

The built environment of Eyeries is typical of so many rural villages which sprang up in the vicinity of a Church with a main street winding round this central building. The present appearance of that winding street is now what makes the Eyeries experience unique. The chorus of colour rings out the melody. You have been remarkably successful in tackling your dereliction problem. The upturn of recent years has benefitted the built environment of the village and one feels that this has happened without changing the character of Eyeries. The new buildings have blended into their traditional surroundings. The commitment of the owners of property to creating a co-ordinated village picture in the colour and maintenance of the properties provides the key. The Church occupies a prime position in the village. Its appearance, therefore, impacts significantly on the village. That appearance would benefit from a power wash. All of the businesses add to the atmosphere. Well done on the provision of toilets. The Health Centre looks well. One wonders if the big directional sign for the Post Office is necessary? The treatment of this shed is a good example of how you give a lift to a building in need. Mind you, the ponies down the street cannot complain as they frolic around their brightly painted shed

either. Away from the village we find two important institutions of village life. The school and its surroundings looked splendid and its Green Flag flutters proudly in the summer breeze. Lets call them ogham stones because they create a sense of a seat of ancient learning. The artwork on the front wall not only gives a sense of the joy of youth but also hints at a freedom of expression and the air of 'There are so many colours in the rainbow' stays with one for the rest of the day. The GAA pitch is conveniently located beside the school. While one appreciates the contribution it undoubtedly makes to the community, it also has a responsibility to maintain its appearance. The goalposts could do with a coat of paint. The Clubhouse and surroundings appear somewhat shabby. The only case of dumping in the village was found at the clubhouse.

Landscaping:

Gates, walls, hedges, flowers, shrubs, trees, stone, stone walls are the ingredients of the landscaping mix that compliment the work of the street painters, or vice versa. The built environment and the landscaping combine to ring out the local pride and spirit of this remote people. Lupins, hydrangea, developing nasturtiums, flowering senecio are colours of summer days. Every opportunity to let nature express itself is used. The vital implements of survival of a previous generation are displayed as museum pieces and used to enhance the village picture. Even tractor tyres are saved from the 'welcome home' bonfires to provide a border. Steps that appear to go nowhere in particular are a curiosity. The picnic area looks inviting. The general landscaping at the school enhances that experience.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The environs of Eyeries are a natural wildlife paradise. It appears from your submission that you are conscious of the richness that surrounds you and that you are tapping into this. One is pleased that you include the ecology report and that you now have plans for building on the data you received. An obstacle to progressing plans that you mention is cost. One will be interested to read how matters are progressing in next year's submission.

Litter Control:

A young boy bedecked in his Cork colours is out clearing dead leaves from the front of his house. That activity sums up the village spirit. Work now and we will hit the road for Dublin in September. Almost no litter, one example of dumping at the GAA grounds. But, in fact, one expects no litter or dumping in this pristine place.

Waste Minimisation:

Certainly you are fortunate that the recycling centre is convenient to you. Fortunately you use this centre. Segregation of material is an important function in waste minimisation. One notes that the school children are also encouraged to participate. Remember that the emphasis in this section is on minimising waste in your community. A survey of the types of waste could assist you in furthering your objectives. How much of the waste is related to farming, to debris on the beach, to our consumer society? Will we call the landscaping use of the tyres a waste minimisation project? Why not?

Tidiness:

The road verges signal that this is a cared-for spot. The montbretia will soon add a splash of red and orange. Your encouragement to have signs hand-painted is praiseworthy. O'Neill's sign on arrival in Eyeries sets the tone. The sign for the strand needs an uplift. Some road surfaces need pressure on the County Council.

Residential Areas:

The traditional private residences throughout Eyeries echo the pride that is expressed in all aspects of this TidyTowns experience. Bay windows echo a period long past but add variety to the more modern neighbouring design. Having new, vibrant modern estates not only clears up past eyesores that the adjudicator can only imagine but brings a dash of modern design to this coastal village. Older and more recent buildings blend. Cluain Carraigeach proclaims itself elegantly. All of these estates bring promise of further generations proud of their áit dúchais.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads to Eyeries signal that we are about to experience something special. The preparation in the walls and verges helps define the next experience on the road. Eyeries proclaims itself proudly. A trip to the strand completes the visit. For here is another dimension to the gaily coloured street we have just left, an integral part of village life where manicured would be ridiculed.

General Impression:

If one were a tourist who happened on Eyeries one would bore one's friends with photos and superlatives on return home. The Eyeries experience of to-day has been carefully and tastefully prepared. It illustrates the involvement of the whole community. It is a shining example of what TidyTowns represents. Your submission hints at a word of warning from yourselves to yourselves: 'We aim to accentuate.....and not to over prettify'. Pay heed to your warning.

Second Round Adjudication:

The first indication that you are about to enter a village that surely qualifies for that often misused term – unique – is the colourful school. From their threes, well painted polls complete with fluttering flags – inclusive of the Green Flag naturally - to the series of well painted mural panels on the outer wall, the school captures and encapsulates so much that makes Eyeries special – fresh, neat while displaying a skilled use of many colours, conveying an ill-concealed sense of pure joy in expression.

Eyeries is a Gold Medal winner last year – a fact recorded near their splendid Village Name sign at the junction. New houses set in a row leaning on the existing vernacular home and in total synergy with it, greet you on the approach road. Further along a bright, freshly painted cart, complete with milk churn, reminds the visitor of the farming roots of this village. But these are mere starters, an aperitif to the powerful impact of the village's total disregard for, what is deemed to be, the laws of good colour sense. The reality is that the juxtapositioning of deep blues with pink, purple, green and red, white and black make for a simply incredible, triumphant and inspiring display that transcends all known rules, but does so to such wonderful effect.

The Pink House is a successful infill house; one of some thirty houses build in the last decade replacing previously derelict houses and sites. The post office is colourful, albeit not opting for the free form writing on its facia, a form widely used locally. Bright also are the new houses in this development which, thankfully, continue the local tradition of vibrant colours. Litter and graffiti are not to be seen, but a number of the facing slabs have come away from the wall at the start of the beach road.