

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Eyeries - Na hAorai** Ref: **738**
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **352**
Category: **A** Date(s): **12/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	50	51
Streetscape & Public Places	80	45	47
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	46	47
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	38	40
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	23	24
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	64
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	37	39
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	39	40
TOTAL MARK	550	341	352

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valú don bhliain 2022. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór.

Welcome to the Super Valú Tidy Towns Competition for 2022. We thank you for your entry, and wish you all the best in all your future work. Good luck.

- Eyeries - Na hAorai, a small village with a population of approx. 80 people – has entered the competition for 51 years and has a committee of 12 members with support of another 20-30 volunteers.
- The committee holds 8-10 meetings per year including an AGM and organizes daily litter picks.
- Support is received from at least 6 different national and local agencies.
- You communicate with the community mainly through your Facebook page regarding meetings, announcements and events etc. The committee communicates via Whatsapp and there a link is provided to your website www.eyeries.ie. You use your local weekly Parish newsletter to also inform people of upcoming events for those who may not be on social media.
- Eyeries Tidy Towns continues to work with the local national school to get children involved in your activities. Many committee members are parents, so you encourage the children and their friends to get involved with your activities, such as clean-ups, litter-picking, wildflower planting etc.
- In the 51 years of the involvement of Eyeries village in the Tidy Towns competition, generations in the village have taken part in its activities. This commitment conveys a great sense of honour and pride, despite some challenges over the years, to those working for the benefit of the local community.

The coloured map provided with your Entry Form was of high quality, very clear and shows all the main features of the village. It would be good however, to provide a numbered legend on the map showing the location and precise description of the various projects included on the form and completed over the last year.

The quality of the application form is very good and the photos highlighting the projects are very informative. The adjudicator's assessment is based on a recent site visit and the contents of the application form, which is suitably concise at 18 pages long. The text inserted on the form is also quite easy to read.

Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

- The adjudicator is very impressed with the ongoing work being undertaken by the committee to produce a book detailing historical data and map, in relation to the people who have occupied the various houses located in the village. We await its future publication with interest.
- The adjudicator enjoyed a visit to Eyeries on a rather misty afternoon in July. Despite the cloudy weather however, the streets of the village were resplendent in a variety of very bright colours which caught the eye. The

streetscape of Eyeries is very much characterised by individually coloured homes and commercial premises, which add a great sense of vibrancy providing a striking vista along the Main Street even on the duller of days. Eyeries has a very interesting layout with winding narrow streets and one gets the feeling that the pedestrian is not under too much pressure, to make way to the occasional passing motor vehicle.

- The concrete footpath build-outs, which it is presumed have been inserted because of Covid, have provided more space for pedestrians and this has been an advantage in terms of securing pedestrian movement through the village, regulating parking and providing for additional outdoor dining opportunities.
- O'Sullivan's Foodstore and Causkey's Bar stood out as some of the more attractive commercial premises located in the centre of the village. The village Church St. Kentigern's sporting a bright yellow façade, was visited and the adjacent car park area was found to be well marked and presented. Perhaps consider providing some additional tree planting in this area to create the possibility of defined traffic Islands within the car park. This will reduce the overall expanse of tarmac in this area. The sharp rock formations facing into the car park were an attractive feature here. The nearby public toilets in the village were also visited and these were found to be presented to an excellent standard, as was the nearby post office premises.
- In Eyeries village not only are the building facades beautifully presented but many of the local residents have also gone to the trouble of placing various artworks and paintings in their front windows facing the street, which added greatly to the overall interest and attractiveness of the streetscape. The local National School Premises were visited and standard of maintenance here was very good. The boundary fence along the adjoining GAA grounds has deteriorated in condition and may need to be replaced in the short to medium term.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

- Your flagship project under this category this year is the ongoing management and maintenance of the sensory garden. A spring clean has been carried out ahead of the replanting of summer pollinators. The adjudicator called to the sensory garden and noted the interesting access arrangement and the wonderful planting design and enjoyed a lovely walk along the little stream. The gentle sound of flowing water in the garden added to the very peaceful ambience prevalent in this area.
- The area known as Frank's Corner was also visited and this area looks a bit jaded and could do with a re-vamp in the short to medium term.

Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:

- A very interesting new project which you have undertaken this year is the establishment of a school garden & horticultural space at Scoil Chaitighern. It is noted that planting has begun in the garden along with a bug hotel and lots of interactive and sensory ideas.
- During the visit the adjudicator noticed a site located opposite O'Sullivan's Foodstore, which has significant natural rock formations and is characterised by varied grassland habitats. No doubt this area is privately owned, but perhaps there may be an opportunity in the future to research this area as a possible nature park/reserve for the village?

Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:

- A major project for you under this heading this year has been the provision of a water refill station in the village in order to reduce the need for single use plastic water bottles and to encourage residents and visitors to use the free water supply available.
- The steps you have taken to arrange for rainwater harvesting in the village were positively noted and water butts are now present at the Post Office and Church grounds.
- Other areas worthy of consideration by Eyeries Tidy Towns Committee for the future under this category, which is in keeping with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, include the development of small electric microgeneration schemes for Wind, Solar and Hydro in partnership with the Local Authority and these may also attract suitable SEAI or Leader funding.
- You might look at providing public e-car charge points and bicycle parking facilities in the village to encourage sustainable transport methods, perhaps at the Church car park or elsewhere in the village, and these could be provided in the short/medium term.
- The Committee might also consider in the future initiating membership of the Sustainable Energy Communities programme run by the SEAI, which includes engaging in learning networks, preparation of energy masterplans and local energy action plans etc. The following are useful links in this regard.
<https://www.seai.ie/community-energy/sustainable-energy-communities>. /<https://www.codema.ie/sec>
- The ongoing management of rainwater and floodwater in village areas in the context of climate change is an important topic under this category. This is a particularly critical issue in areas which have suffered flooding in recent years. The committee might like to become aware of the nature-based solutions to the management of rainwater/floodwater and surface water run-off in village areas, water sensitive village design, best practice etc. A recent publication by the Dept. of Housing Local Government and Heritage is available and provides important guidance in this regard.
- Other useful website links under this category are available as part of the updated Tidy Towns Handbook dealing with Sustainability - doing more with less.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

- Your main area of activity under this category includes the carrying out of Spring clean-ups of the Village and along approach roads early in the year and your litter teams continue to monitor litter in the village every morning – well done to all concerned with this important work.
- You also planned to do a shore and beach clean-up in early June, covering a 3.5km section of shoreline

and you encourage the community to carry out a 2-minute beach clean-up, as advocated by Clean Coasts. Your activities also extend to litter control along approach roads and maintaining public areas and plantings – this voluntary work is no doubt much appreciated by the wider community.

- On the day of adjudication there were no issues with regard to litter or tidiness in the village, although the amount of commercial signage at a small number of locations did add to visual clutter.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

- Thank you for the photos showing your colourful streetscapes in Eyeries village, which are quite spectacular and there is no doubt that the presentation of residential dwellings in the village is of great interest to tourists and visitors alike. The commitment of local residents to presenting their properties to such a high standard and maintaining litter free streets is to be commended. The children's play area was also found to be very well maintained and presented.
- The adjudicator called to the small infill housing scheme known as 'Cluain Carraigeach', well named in view of the significant rock outcrops which are to be found on the open space areas here. This is a very attractive development of colourful terraced houses in a traditional style which fully complement the adjoining streetscape of the village. The adjudicator was also very impressed with a small unnamed infill development located opposite Frank's corner, which has homes attractively appointed with exquisite natural stonework and the cowshed stood out for particular mention here.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

- It is good to see that you are attending to the presentation of approach roads into Eyeries village in a sensitive manner, allowing areas to grow longer to provide habitats for pollinators. The maintenance of trees and the removal of unnecessary guards and ties as the trees mature is an important job that you are attending to successfully.
- On the Kenmare approach to the village, it was noted that some of the trees planted in the grass margins are suffering from dieback and may need to be replaced. The Wild Atlantic Way signage on this approach would also benefit from cleaning.
- On the Castletownbere approach, the attractively designed stone namesign is an important and prominent feature here, which has stood the test of time. The signs erected for the Eyeries Family Festival on all approaches to the village were much appreciated.

Concluding Remarks:

Eyeries is a unique village which is intrinsically beautiful. Relatively minor improvement works, carefully planned and executed each year, could make a great impact on the ongoing vibrancy and presentation of the village. There is no doubt that Eyeries has great potential to progress even further in the competition, because of the charming quality of the village streetscape, coupled with the interesting street pattern and quality of individual properties. Keep up the good work.