

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **SHERKIN ISLAND**  
County : **CORK**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 12-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	36
The Built Environment	40	40	38
Landscaping	40	0	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	0	--
Litter Control	40	36	35
Tidiness	20	0	--
Residential Areas	30	0	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	41	39
General Impression	10	44	42
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>190</b>

## **Sherkin Island, Co Cork**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Determination is obviously the key to the approach of this Society, and clearly a great deal has already been done to overcome the difficulties outlined in your answers to the questionnaire. Last years adjudicator urged you to follow the example of other centres in compiling a 3 to 5 year Development Plan, in which objectives can be listed and a schedule of projects spread over each successive year; other centres have found that this concentrates their effort and prevents them from trying to achieve too much all at once. If you do not take on such a plan, please, in your answers to the questionnaire, differentiate between work completed since the previous adjudication, and work proposed for the future. Thank you for your very helpful map. Your co-operative effort with the County Council, and your initiatives with other groups, is most impressive. It is good that you are able to make use of the Part-time Job Opportunities Programmes. (As a general comment, aside from marking the competition, the aims of your Society are admirably wholesome in its expressed attitude to island life, traditions and landscape, and might well be emulated by many a non-island community. Your concerns about the effect of social change make interesting reading. In the past, the busy rural day naturally imposed an order and tidiness, where today indolence sometimes prevails, with its deleterious effect on farm and field; the symbol of the latter is the old bit of scrapmetal inadequately filling a gap in the hawthorn hedge).

### **LITTER CONTROL AND TIDINESS**

Your efforts have obviously been successful since last year in the matter of litter collection, for there was very little seen on adjudication day - congratulations. The major exception was at the harbour, where a considerable amount of disposable litter was seen right beside the barrels provided (It could be that visitors did not recognise these rusty barrels as being for the purpose intended: surely the local authority could provide proper bins, as seen in every town and village). The area surrounding Dun na Long was quite unkempt on adjudication day. The road leading down was weedy, and weed surrounded the buildings. The sheds, and broken concrete accretions, give a scruffy appearance to what has the potential for becoming an immensely attractive and interesting area: it is, in fact, a neglected beauty-spot. Builders waste had been dumped on the shore immediately below the Library/Community Centre: this is reprehensible, and is entirely at odds with everything which the Development Society is striving to establish.

### **HOMES, HARBOUR AREAS AND OTHER FACILITIES**

The harbour was well presented, and it was good to see so much activity. The Friary restoration proceeds slowly but effectively: the newly laid lawn in the cloister was admired; this is obviously on its way to becoming a major historical attraction. It would be splendid if, when the Friary work is completed, a similar scheme could be put into action at Dun na Long. The two pubs were very nicely painted,

with an air of welcome. Renovation in progress was noted at the Library/Community Centre, potently signalling general rejuvenation. The Church does need painting, but it is understandable that this is difficult to achieve in a small community. The School is bright and well kept, a very happy-looking building. While some homes obviously need attention, several are beautifully looked after.

## **PRESENTATION OF ROADS, WALLS AND HEDGEROWS**

(This category is being taken as including the natural life, landscape and gardens). It would be a mistake to expect a high standard of road surfacing, but maintenance certainly could be improved. It would also be a mistake to expect trim verges as in suburbia - hedges and ditches abound in vegetation and at the time of adjudication wild flowers were at their best; it was a delight to see (and smell!) honeysuckle, foxgloves, roses, marguerites, sorel, celendine, bracken, alder, pine, etc. etc., while walking only a few yards. The conifer plantation is impressive, and funds permitting, this kind of development could be continued in many places. The new trees at Dun na Long were surrounded by weeds: this inhibits growth; the initiative is excellent, but all initiatives must be followed-through. The planting at the School was very favourably noted indeed. One garden in particular, visible from the road near the Library/Community Centre, makes splendid use of the rocky background. Stone walls and gate pillars are of an exceptionally high standard, the new ones blending with the surrounding landscape. The abundance of wildlife, particularly sea birds, is a delight; Horseshoe Bay is well-named as a bird sanctuary.

## **OVERALL GENERAL PRESENTATION**

What is most impressive is the effort which this Society is making to improve the environmental life of the island. In this regard, a Development Plan as described above, is strongly recommended.