

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **INIS MEAIN**  
County : **GALWAY**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	60	37
Homes, Harbour areas and other Facilities	60	30
Litter Control and Tidiness	60	26
Roads, Walls and Hedgerows	60	30
Overall General Impression	60	34
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>157</b>

# **Adjudicators Comments**

## **Inis Meain, County Galway**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Inis Meain is as different as it is beautiful. In approaching the Tidy Towns Competition the Environmental Group has adopted the broad aspirations of the Inis Meain Co-op as its main point of reference. It is understood that the emphasis is based on an island rather than town or village community base and its tidy town activity therefore reflects this reality.

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

Most of the houses were well presented with perhaps some attention to painting of windows and doors required in some cases. The pub and adjoining houses with their white painted walls and colourful flower displays were particularly attractive as a relaxing and social area. In a traditional sense it is regrettable to see the demise of the thatched roofs but the use of tiles a practical alternative is now more the norm. The modern buildings, An Cniotail, Halla Naoim Eoin, and Scoil Naisiunta all looked very well indeed. Nice to see the flower beds at the entrance to the school. The reconstruction of Teach Synge and adjacent hut was completed in traditional style. The Church was well presented with clean and tidy frontage. The historic buildings such as Dun an Fearbhai, Dun Chonchuir, and Cill Cheananach (suggest you remove graffiti from interior) are spectacular.

### **LITTER CONTROL AND TIDINESS**

The purity of the natural landscape on the island is such that it requires no man-made embellishments. However, its protection is the main issue and every effort should be made to ensure it is not lost. It was noted that the water pump near the church had been painted. Well done, suggest a small flower feature could be created here. The cycle storage container near the harbour is an eyesore. While most of the island is by and large litter free, there was a bad incident at the entrance to an Dun Chonchuir. Care must be taken with plastic bags etc. from agriculture, building materials, grocery supply packings etc. In one case there is a rusting van which appears permanently 'parked' at the side of the road near the church. Delighted to see the recycling facilities in place.

### **ROADS, WALLS AND HEDGEROWS**

Within the context of the small island community the roads are in good order. For the most part they handle two-wheeled and pedestrian traffic and they are quite adequate for this purpose. A feature of the island is its stone walls which to the strange eye are both amazing, beautiful, and inspiring. It is a real disappointment to see the current use of brick, and stone dressing - however unrealistic, it is a process which should be discouraged. There is a tremendous array of wild flower growing in and around the stone walls and even small birds popping in and out of gaps between the stones – most attractive.

## **OVERALL GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Inis Meain is close to a point where outside influences could upset its unique character. It is a wonderful experience to visit and the hope is that the environmental group will ensure that it always remains that way.