

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLARE ISLAND**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	35
The Built Environment	40	36	35
Landscaping	40	0	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	0	--
Litter Control	40	34	33
Tidiness	20	0	--
Residential Areas	30	0	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	36	36
General Impression	10	37	37
TOTAL MARK	300	179	176

Clare Island, County Mayo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The island has a rich heritage, of that there is no doubt. The list of things to see on Clare Island is quite stunning, however most of these are difficult to find for the casual visitor. They should be signposted in a discrete way. (My fellow passengers had no idea where they were, they had no map, none of the shops sold one, there was only one place open to get a cup of coffee, generally when you arrive on the island, you feel lost!

HOMES, HARBOURS AND OTHER FACILITIES

The new community centre is a wonderful addition to the island. A good high quality sign should now be provided. Most buildings were presented to a high standard in terms of the building itself but many had untidy side areas, back areas and curtilage areas. The difficulty for landscaping on the island is appreciated. If a landscaping project is to be undertaken, then of course trees and shrubs with a high salt and wind tolerance should be chosen. Landscaping at the community centre has been noted. The island is, of course, a haven for wildlife and this is one of its greatest attractions. Your project to bring back the corncrake is admirable, we wish you well. It is good to note that there is a reps scheme in place on the island.

LITTER CONTROL AND TIDINESS

Litter control around the island was generally good, however the litter bins were full to overflowing on the day of adjudication and were, in fact, a bit of an eyesore. Bags of litter were piled on top and around them and the two more important ones, one at the tourist information sign at the harbour and the other at the seat at Grainuale's Castle. There are quite a few problems of untidiness. It is good to note that you have cleared the island of old cars, yet still one or two were spotted, one in particular near the school and twelfth century church. The harbour and immediate environs were particularly untidy. The very large rusted piece of machinery should be removed together with the superfluous materials, barrels, bins, ropes, rusted chains, etc. that have outlived their usefulness. This is probably the most serious problem in presentation. Some private properties were untidy in their curtilage areas also as noted above. Building materials were noted around the island and looked as if they had been discarded.

ROADS, WALLS AND HEDGEROWS

It is good to note that the County Council are improving on

roads and drains and are providing directional signs in addition to the information sign at the Quay. It is suggested that walks be provided with comfort markers and perhaps to Cospóir standards. The carpark at the graveyard should be surfaced. There are excellent guidelines in the new Tidy Towns Handbook on hedgerow management.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Clare Island is beautiful and this adjudicator has planned a repeat visit for holiday. As noted above the visitor can feel a little lost on arrival. Many of your heritage features are difficult to find. However the walks are well illustrated on the map.