

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 28-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	60	30
Homes, Harbour areas and other Facilities	60	36
Litter Control and Tidiness	60	43
Roads, Walls and Hedgerows	60	41
Overall General Impression	60	45
TOTAL MARK	300	195

Adjudicators Comments

Heir Island, County Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The importance of retaining the wild and unspoiled aspect of Heir Island is vital. It is important to plan ahead. Consider any improvements or developments that are necessary, list these and set about how, when and in what way they can be achieved. This makes the basis of a plan and this could then be your blueprint to follow. Highlight the assets of the island and develop some literature particular to your island .

HOMES, HARBOUR AREAS AND OTHER FACILITIES

The constructional work at the pier is complete. The pier is a fine facility and with the completed works it can be fully utilised. The roadways over the island take you on a lovely tour of the island illustrating the natural plants, bird song , butterflies and lovely scenery. Even the old ruins of some former homes are attractive whereas if they were in a location on the mainland they would be considered undesirable. The dwelling homes are lovingly cared for and the gardens where present are nice. The whole island is a garden and regardless of whether plants are planted or not the natural vegetation takes its place. Even the school with its sense of dilapidation has a certain charm.

LITTER CONTROL AND TIDINESS

While litter does not seem to be a problem, the disposal of household items and general refuse could be a problem. Many items are very slow to breakdown and the treatment of refuse needs careful consideration.

PRESENTATION OF ROADS, WALLS AND HEDGEROWS

The walls are very attractive and a great feature of these walls is the vegetation they hold. Ferns, foxgloves mosses and thymes to mention a few of the plants . The scent from these is very pleasant and a walk across the island with next to no traffic noise or fumes heightens the benefits of the vegetation. Bird song is very noticeable as are the presence of butterflies. With such in mind the maintenance of the true value of the island is vital in the face of progress. The hawthorn and blackthorn hedges are great sources of bird activity. Trees on the island provide good cover for wild life. Pine and spruce trees are thriving so these are obvious choices for further planting. In areas groups of these are planted to nice effect.

Fuchsia, Olearia, Escalonia, Hebe and griselinia all prosper well on the island and these are good choices. When shelter in gardens using trees or shrubs the range of planting within the shelter will be greatly increased. There are many interesting gardens on the island. The natural vegetation with its attractant wildlife, forms a garden in itself.

OVERALL GENERAL IMPRESSION

The walk across the island was very memorable especially for its calmness, freedom from noise and traffic fume or reason to step aside from the middle of the road while walking. Bird song was especially beautiful and the scenery around the island. While it would be nice to have a bigger population any efforts at development must retain the natural beauty and all that goes with that.