

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 28-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	60	42
Homes, Harbour areas and other Facilities	60	43
Litter Control and Tidiness	60	37
Roads, Walls and Hedgerows	60	45
Overall General Impression	60	49
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>216</b>

## **Adjudicators Comments**

### **Sherkin Island, County Cork**

#### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The submission made with the application form was very impressive and outlined clearly the work in progress and the plans for the future together with some of the problems or challenges to be faced. There is a very positive atmosphere about developments on Sherkin and it is easy to see the forward direction evident on the island. The co-operation with so many bodies is essential in achieving good results and your committee's work with the statutory bodies is wise. The retention of the true character of the island should be preserved and care must be taken especially with the increase in building activity that natural stone is used as much as possible and designs are in the context of the island.

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

The Improvements to the pier are commendable and with such traffic it was not before its time that this facility was improved. The Franciscan Abbey is a lovely attraction and access to this Abbey would be a marvellous asset. There is a huge amount of building work in progress at the moment. This is causing some disruption but this is temporary although more building will follow in the present climate. It is important that all building projects are well finished and the landscape restored – the tidy towns committee could keep a watchful eye on this aspect. The progress of the old hotel is interesting and will represent a great opportunity to promote the island. The Jolly Roger is a very good facility. The post office, school and community centre appear in good condition. The church wall and gate could benefit from decoration. The painting over the altar in the church is very attractive. The row of terraced cottages near the school is very attractive and nicely set in off the road. The care and maintenance of individual homes is all important. Everyone who looks after his or her home and land contributes greatly to the overall appearance of the island.

#### **LITTER CONTROL AND TIDINESS**

Because there are such natural surrounds on the island the appearance of even the smallest amount of litter is very noticeable. There was litter to be seen here and there along the roads – a little, a crisp bag, ice cream wrapper and such like. The idea of requesting people to take their litter home is a good one as litter bins in themselves often present a problem and having people develop their own responsibility for their litter is a good one. The litter clean up days are a good idea. The adjudication took place just a couple of days after the June 25<sup>th</sup> clean up. Untidiness in the form of an abandoned

tractor, obsolete tin roofs of old buildings and washing machines left out was noted. It is understandable that when such items become redundant on an island there is a difficulty in disposing of them and this is an item that needs resolution. A notice stating the availability of barrels for burning refuse was observed. The recycling bins are a great idea.

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

The road surfaces are in good state of repair. 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. Sycamore, pine and spruce trees are thriving so these are obvious choices for further planting. In areas groups of these are planted to nice effect. At one place near the school a lovely glade is formed through which the road passes. 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**

As mentioned last year the maintenance of the character and charm of this island is very important in the face of developments. The wild, natural and unspoiled aspect of the island is its great asset.