

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BERE ISLAND**
County : **CORK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 25-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	60	40
Homes, Harbour areas and other Facilities	60	40
Litter Control and Tidiness	60	30
Roads, Walls and Hedgerows	60	40
Overall General Impression	60	38
TOTAL MARK	300	188

Adjudicators Comments

BERE ISLAND, CO. CORK

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Bere Island Tourism and Environment Group is welcome back to the competition after last year's absence. Your three year plan makes extremely interesting reading and appears to be a most practical one - it looks to the wealth of heritage that Bere Island has and seeks to enhance it further. You have also identified problem areas such as litter and appear keen to tackle these issues. You have also concentrated on the "entry points" to the island, which are extremely important, as they give a first impression to the visitor. Do ensure, when planting trees, that you seek expert advice in order to plant species that will withstand the harsh marine environment. Your work in relation to the Slí na Sláinte is commendable. The Heritage Centre and your emphasis on the fascinating military history of the island will make extremely interesting attractions for the visitor and resident alike.

HOMES, HARBOUR AREAS AND OTHER FACILITIES

The standard in this category of the competition was quite good. Lawrence Cove Marina with its washroom facilities and shop was extremely well maintained. Perhaps some more litter bins in this location could be considered, as the only one the adjudicator was able to locate was within the washroom facilities! The grotto area was extremely well maintained and the school with its attractive colourful mural on the boundary wall was greatly admired. The hotel, bar and shop were well maintained, although the area adjacent appeared quite rough. The church should be painted up before next year's competition. It is attractive in its simplicity and its new galvanized gates were admired. The army headquarters was well maintained, as indeed were all of the commercial premises at Rerrin, of note being Jack O'Neill's, Kitty's Café, O'Sullivan's and Murphy's. Do ensure that flaky signage is freshly painted before next year's competition. In terms of housing, the standard was reasonably good. Of particular note was an attractive garden with roses overhanging its boundary wall, near to the pier area at Rerrin. The attractive old national school near Lawrence's Cove has now become a smart stone residence. Some attractive houses near the hotel were greatly admired. An extremely grubby gable to a house between Rerrin and Lawrence's Cove looked unfortunate.

LITTER CONTROL AND TIDINESS

The standard of litter control on the day could have been better. Plastic bags and bottles along the main roads, in particular, at the central location by the hotel looked most unfortunate. Some more rubbish was apparent by the concrete benches with timber seats at Rerrin Harbour. It is evident that more litter bins are needed throughout the island. In terms of tidiness, the dumping of various items was evident throughout - rusty washing machine, abandoned cars and even a bus! This created an extremely bad impression. Rusty boats in the Ballynakilla pier area looked extremely

unfortunate as did the rusty trawlers at the entry to the island from Castletownbere. The beach and pier area in this location looked extremely untidy with many dumped and rusty cars. Outbuildings with rusty tin roofs also created a bad impression at Ardagh. Perhaps the concrete post and wire fence at Rerrin Harbour could be replaced with a stone walling.

ROADS, WALLS AND HEDGEROWS

The abundant wild flowers and hedgerows created an extremely good impression. Noted on the day were a variety of ferns, wild roses, cornflowers, blackberry blossom and bog irises. The primary road along the central spine of the island was in extremely good condition. However secondary roads were in poorer shape with grass growing in the centre. In terms of signage, the nameplates identifying townlands were quite fresh. New stone walling in a number of locations was greatly admired.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Bere Island is an attractive location for the visitor. Given its size, ongoing maintenance is a problem. However, your three year plan appears to be a sensible and logical one. Good luck with your implementation of same.