

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-08-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	60	43
Homes, Harbour areas and other Facilities	60	48
Litter Control and Tidiness	60	38
Roads, Walls and Hedgerows	60	47
Overall General Impression	60	50
TOTAL MARK	300	226

Adjudicators Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

As stated by last year's adjudicator it is essential that you maintain the essential character and integrity of the island in relation to future developments. The adjudicator was pleased to note your efforts in relation to ensuring that new housing units blend with the island's natural environment. The close relationship you have developed with Cork County Council and Irish Council for Social Housing in this regard is to be commended. Sherkin Island Development Society is obviously a hard working and enthusiastic committee who care about the ongoing development of the island and strive to ensure that this does not compromise the island's natural beauty.

HOMES, HARBOUR AREAS AND OTHER FACILITIES

The new street furniture including bollards and lighting on the pier were admired upon landing on the island. Buildings throughout were generally well cared for. Cúisín Snack Bar looked extremely fresh with brightly painted concrete pipes filled with petunias at its entry point. The adjacent Silver Strand and Trá Eoghan Mór beaches were both extremely busy on a sunny adjudication day. Ongoing restoration work is still taking place at the Friary. The Jolly Roger and Islander's Rest Hotel opposite were well presented. The planting at the forecourt area to the latter with its wild flowers, including daisies and cheerful red poppies was most attractive. The church, boundary wall and adjacent house should be repainted before next year's competition, as should the school which was quite stained on its gable. However the attractive rockery filled with roses to the front of the latter was greatly admired. The community centre was extremely fresh and well cared for. Houses throughout the island were generally well maintained, in particular, an attractive garden at the waters edge with rockery, grass lawns and mature trees to the roadside was greatly admired, as were the terrace of houses in their central location, in particular, that with an "avenue" of fuchsia bushes leading to its door. A timber building and deck was under construction on the day at the dock area - new houses were noted in a number of locations throughout the island. The shop was well maintained – a stone wall surrounded its litter facilities.

LITTER CONTROL AND TIDINESS

The standard of litter control on the day could have been better with litter noted in a number of locations. Bottles at the stone wall by the phone box created a bad impression – this is a location which cries out for a litter bin! Quite a few papers were evident along the road containing the hotel and the Jolly

Roger. The recycling facilities at Kinnish Harbour were noted, as were the efforts to develop blue flag status for the island's beaches. Weeds were a problem at the kerbsides near the church. A cooker dumped on the roadside near the beach created a bad impression, as did an abandoned car at the Dock area at the top of the island. A shed with pallets outside should be screened more successfully from public view in its prominent location between the pier and the abbey. Construction materials should be removed once work is complete – some were noted in the vicinity of the school.

ROADS, WALLS AND HEDGEROWS

Sherkin Island is indeed fortunate in relation to its magnificent stone grassy banks and hedgerows which were all in good condition on the day. These are generally filled with wild flowers such as ferns, cornflowers, fuchsia and sport many varieties of wildlife including butterflies and very noisy crickets! Roads throughout the island were in reasonably good condition although a large pothole in the road at the main junction of roads leading to the pier and the hotel appeared quite dangerous. The two village pumps adjacent to the Jolly Roger and the road to the Packard Gallery should be painted up including their surrounding walls. Directional signage at the main crossroads was quite grubby and should be washed down before next year's competition.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Sherkin Island, in its close proximity to the busy tourist facility of Baltimore is an attractive place to visit, and indeed to live. Do try to ensure that its unique charm and natural appearance are not destroyed by inappropriate or over-development.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (06/08/01)

Despite the improvements to the pier referred to above there was scope for general tidying in this area: eg, clearing of weed growth and considerable amounts of litter. After all, it is this area where the initial impression of the island is gained. The natural beauty throughout the island is overwhelming but perhaps here and there it could be better tamed. Some of the beautiful stone walls lining the roads could be periodically cleared of overgrowth ('weeds' as distinct from wild flowers). Plenty could be done without much expense or indeed much labour. It was surprising to see Abbey Store with a tiled roof rather than slated and horizontal, suburban type windows. Fortunately most of the new buildings reflect the vernacular architecture in some manner. Regrettably, there was litter all along the roadsides - maybe provide litter bins at intervals along the roads. However, an allowance has been made for litter occurring over the bank holiday weekend when the second adjudication took place. We wish you well with your future endeavours!