

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **OILEAN THORAI**
County : **DONEGAL**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	60	47
Homes, Harbour areas and other Facilities	60	43
Litter Control and Tidiness	60	36
Roads, Walls and Hedgerows	60	42
Overall General Impression	60	41
TOTAL MARK	300	209

Adjudicators Comments

Oilean Thoraí, Co. Donegal

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition. Oilean Thoraí is a pleasure to adjudicate. The island has a fine heritage and many attractive amenity features. It would be a great help to the visitor if a map of the island was to feature somewhere in the environs of the harbour, together with distances between points, so that the visitor can put his/her time on your lovely island to good use. The Information Centre was signposted but impossible for the visitor to find as it did not feature a sign on the building.

HOMES, HARBOUR AREAS AND OTHER FACILITIES

As noted above, the Information Centre did not feature a sign. Club Soisalta Thoraí could have been better presented to its curtilage area. Its outdoor seated area is a nice development. The Cáife premises were nicely whitewashed; construction work appeared to be ongoing opposite. Both grottos were beautiful in their presentation. Many buildings were in need of whitewashing and a number of derelict outbuildings were noted. The small estate of houses with its nicely kerbed area was attractively presented. The large, newly-built building with roof windows is a fine development and should feature signage as to its use. The Art Gallery was very much enjoyed and appreciated.

LITTER CONTROL AND TIDINESS

Litter control was reasonably good this year. Some stretches of roadside edge were littered, particularly along the Slí na Sláinte walks. Many litter bins were noted which had not yet been put out (these were roped into areas behind buildings). Building materials were noted at a number of sites and included sand, rubble, building blocks and pallets. Derelict machinery was also noted at several locations. The environs of the recycling point was littered and untidy.

ROADS, WALLS AND HEDGEROWS

Loose natural stone walls are a characteristic feature of the island. Many stretches could be revealed more and their beauty highlighted by cutting back the vegetation at intervals. The Slí na Sláinte walk is a fine amenity development and was complemented beautifully by summer seating at intervals and, of course, by the development at the 'Well'. The feature of the agricultural equipment on a plinth surrounded by large egg-shaped polished granite stone was much admired. Be vigilant regarding weed

growth here. The air hung heavily with the scented fragrance of meadows of wildflowers and stretches of flowering heathers, which was very pleasant to experience. Corncrakes were heard and the pale blue/lilac species of butterfly with the lighter edge around its wings noted by last year's adjudicator was seen again this year.

OVERALL GENERAL IMPRESSION

Oilean Thoraí is a beautiful island and a magical place to visit and no doubt to live on. It can be a little confusing to the visitor on arrival not to have an overview of the island with distances in relation to the point of arrival. Heritage features are not adequately interpreted and the clutter of building materials and derelict machinery takes away from the natural beauty of the island to some extent. It was a pleasure to adjudicate Oilean Thoraí and future visits are looked forward to.