

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Heir Island**

Ref: **548**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **229**

Category: **A**

Date: **04/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	60	35	32
Litter Control and Tidiness	60	48	46
Home, Harbour Areas and Other Facilities	60	50	48
Representation of Roads, Walls and Hedgerows	60	46	43
Overall General Presentation	60	50	50
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>119</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The Heir Island Association's intention to devise a five year plan is noted. The one year plan submitted for 2003 is a good one. A planned structure will give the association goals to strive towards on an annual basis. The area is certainly an oasis of wildlife and one of the stated objectives is to maintain the unique diverse habitats on the island is applauded. The research of Irish place names and the plan to erect plaques at locations around the island is a great project.

### Litter Control and Tidiness:

The clean-up conducted last summer is having a lasting impact. The island looks very clean. In relation to tidiness, the old caravan at the main junction for Burke's shop should be removed, as well as the old boats around the corner from Percy Halls Studio. The removal of storm debris from the beaches is also working to good effect. The chip van was not in operation at the time of inspection; it appears to have been freshly painted. The area around it is very clean and much improved on last year's description.

### Home, Harbour Areas and Other Facilities:

It is a number of years since the adjudicator was on the island, but there is a marked improvement in all aspects. The quality of private homes is very high; of particular note was Island Cottage, Pier Head Cottage, the homes in the vicinity of Burke's Shop and the houses at the Reen. The harbour area is very clean and well kept and this is important as it is the first impression made to the visitor. The former art studio operated by Percy Hall has fallen into disrepair. This is a pity as it provided an

opportunity for local art products to be bought. The comments in last year's report relating to Burke's Cottage apply again - the plans to renovate are noted. The old school, if renovated, could make a wonderful community centre. It is good to note that the newly built houses have used the vernacular cottage design and scale.

### **Representation of Roads, Walls and Hedgerows:**

The road surface is well maintained where appropriate. The hedgerows have a nice mix of traditional ditch, cut stone wall and vertical aligned stone wall. There appeared to be stone similar to slate at Reen. There is a great diversity of plant life in the hedgerows, including heathers, gorse, ferns, blackberry bushes and fuschia. Gates and gate pillars have vastly improved as per your plan. It is noted that over 300 native and semi native trees have been planted to give shelter belts. The Neighbourhood Scheme, mentioned in last year's report, may prove useful- details of it are in your Tidy Towns documentation.

### **Overall General Presentation:**

Heir Island is attractive because of its variety of landscape on such a small area. The options range from beach, harbour, reed beds, natural habitats to farm land. It has certainly improved over the last number of years, with better infrastructure and a more cared for appearance. Keep up the good work.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

The rusty tin roofs of outbuildings near the pier (mentioned by the First Adjudicator) created a bad impression when viewed from the water as one approaches the island. Wild roses and rosehips in the hedgerows on a side road leading to these buildings looked delightful, as did the magnificent display of lavender on the main spine road leading up from the pier. Building materials should be removed once work is complete; some appeared to have been abandoned in two locations, on the main road and that leading to the beach. The island is fortunate in terms of its wealth of wildlife. A number of unusual varieties of butterflies and other insects were noted and admired. A wren was also spotted. The standard of litter control was reasonable but, given the fact that the island is becoming a popular destination for visitors, the provision of litter bins at strategic locations is essential at this stage. Litter was noted beneath the sign for the shop. An abandoned caravan in this location looked unfortunate. Consideration should be given, as mentioned in the First Adjudication, to the development of the old schoolhouse and village pump.