

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Sherkin Island**

Ref: **475**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **242**

Category: **A**

Date: **04/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	60	44	44
Litter Control and Tidiness	60	50	41
Home, Harbour Areas and Other Facilities	60	50	50
Representation of Roads, Walls and Hedgerows	60	48	48
Overall General Presentation	60	50	51
TOTAL MARK	300	242	234

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator has taken into account the fact that all relevant documentation was destroyed in a misfortunate fire at the community hall and office. It is hoped that this building is restored to its previous state quickly - this is a major blow for a small active island community. The community appear to have a very good working relationship with the main statutory bodies such as the local authority, FÁS, Dúchas and with local development groups. The involvement of the local primary school is applauded also. Work is in progress at the abbey - it is not clear to the adjudicator to what extent the abbey will be restored or what remedial works are being carried out. The abbey is a fine building and is intriguing to the first time visitor - one can see why the Franciscan monks choose this location. The Sherkin Island map brochure is very informative and provides excellent information to the visitor.

Litter Control and Tidiness:

The waste management recycling scheme to compact and bale plastics for removal and recycling is a great one. This along with the ' banger ' removal scheme has made a great impact. Only one abandoned vehicle was seen on the day of adjudication (apart from those on pier) and that was a white leyland Daf van on the Church Road. The message on the sign at the Abbey Stores & Post Office requesting visitors to take their litter home is obviously working. The island does have an air of natural tidiness - nature's ecological forces are at work.

Home, Harbour Areas and Other Facilities:

The standard of private housing is quite high, varying from the old traditional cottage to the modern bungalow. Try where possible to retain the old traditional sash windows and to paint doors, window frames and other wood work instead of using varnish. It is encouraging to see the availability of bed and breakfast and self-catering facilities on the island. These allow visitors a chance to have more than a brief experience of island life. A new cluster of houses was seen on the road to the church which were greatly admired. They will make fine private or self-catering houses in the future. The harbour is very clean and has very good glass recycling facilities. This is important along with the Sherkin Island Development Society Ltd. (S.I.D.S) and FÁS waste management recycling scheme. It is presumed that the damaged cars on the pier are awaiting removal from the island for scrappage. The island ' banger ' removal scheme is obviously successful and also self financing. The harbour information panel is very informative about products and activities on the island. The old bags of cement and wooden pallet should be removed when their purpose is served. The weather shelter on the pier is functional and clean. The map board at the first junction is very informative to the visitor.

Representation of Roads, Walls and Hedgerows:

Hedgerows were very well cut back, in fact some cutting was taking place on the day of adjudication. Many walls on the island have vertical stone alignments which makes them very attractive and unique. The walls and hedgerows have an abundance of wildflowers and shrubs. The landscape is dotted with furze, wildflowers, foxgloves, fuchsia and a surprising number of trees. The landscaping at the Islanders Rest was admired.

Overall General Presentation:

The island is very well serviced in terms of catering facilities at the Islanders Rest, Jolly Roger and Cuisin Snack Bar. This along with quality accommodation makes the island very visitor friendly. The adjudicator would certainly have loved to avail of the many water based activities including sea angling, scenic tours or dolphin watching. A sailing course appeared to be underway on the day of adjudication. There are beautiful views from the island back to the mainland and of the neighbouring islands. The lighthouse is a very important building and also the beautiful beaches were much admired. Your comments in relation to the island prizes are noted and will be relayed to the competition organisers.

Second Round Adjudication:

There were a number of cars evident on the hill leading down to the pier. Presumably these are to be removed from the island in the not too distant future? The buildings throughout Sherkin were generally presented to a high standard. The fire at the community centre is most unfortunate, as this building provided a much-needed focus for the local community! Hopefully it will be restored as soon as possible! There were two porta-cabins at the school, (indicating an increase in pupil numbers?) which also sported a new entrance area. The recycling bins should be screened from public view. An area behind a low block-work wall on the main road contained a trailer full of bottles, which looked unfortunate. The children-at-play sign on the main road was in need of some attention.