

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Sherkin Island**

Ref: **330**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **245**

Category: **A**

Date: **04/08/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	60	44	44
Litter Control and Tidiness	60	51	50
Home, Harbour Areas and Other Facilities	60	52	50
Representation of Roads, Walls and Hedgerows	60	48	48
Overall General Presentation	60	50	50
TOTAL MARK	300	245	242

Overall Developmental Approach:

It is essential at this stage in the competition that you formulate a work programme. This document need only be two or three pages long, outlining your plans for the Island's future over the next three to five years. It was disappointing to note that you are still "in limbo" in relation to the hall while awaiting a court case resolution and insurance claim. Your scheme for white goods disposal is an extremely good initiative. Hopefully you will solve the problem of plastics at the beach as, at the moment, the beach is a quite magnificent dramatic area to visit, with its rolling Atlantic waves!.

Litter Control and Tidiness:

The harbour area was fine, although the notice board was empty and abandoned cars appeared to be a problem yet again. Litter was generally quite good, although a couple of plastic bags were noted at the roadside. Do ensure that building materials are removed once construction work is complete, as some were noted to the sides of roads where building work was taking place. Don't neglect outbuildings - a rusty tin roof and derelict out building at the junction of the road to Silver Strand appeared unfortunate and the road surface at the junction itself appeared somewhat rough and unfinished.

Home, Harbour Areas and Other Facilities:

The new estate of houses parallel to the main road of the island, and set back from it was admired. It's quite discreet and the passer by on the main road would barely be aware of its existence! There are a number of new houses on the island. Do ensure that these individual houses resist the

"bungalow blight effect" and are in keeping with the high standards set by the traditional cottages and houses of Sherkin. The shop and post office looked well - perhaps its forecourt area could be landscaped and the storage area screened from public view. The church looked well, as did the school and grounds. However, weeds were evident to the forecourt entrance area in the latter location and the galvanized gates should be replaced before next year's competition. What proposals are there in relation to extending the school? A port-a-cabin appears to be acting as additional classroom space at the moment. The hall looks most unfortunate in its post fire state, in a very prominent location on the main road. Hopefully this issue will be resolved in the not too distant future.

Representation of Roads, Walls and Hedgerows:

Directional signs at the crossroads to Horseshoe bay were in need of some attention. However, the new information board with map of the island opposite was greatly admired. There is quite a lot of barbed wire fencing and concrete post and wire fencing throughout the roads of the island. These should be replaced with traditional stone walling or indigenous hedging in beech or hawthorn, as it currently gives a rather messy and temporary appearance. A number of recessed areas are appearing to roadsides as pull in areas, and can be rather rough in appearance. But generally the standard in this category of the competition was good.

Overall General Presentation:

Sherkin is a most attractive centre which attracts numerous visitors to its shores throughout the summer months and indeed throughout the year. Quite a lot of construction work appeared to have taken place since the adjudicator last visited the island not so long ago! Do ensure that this is in keeping with the unique character of the island and that its marvelous heritage, both in terms of the built environment and the natural environment is not destroyed by this ongoing work.

Second Round Adjudication:

What a delight to travel out to Sherkin from Baltimore and spend some time on the island on what must have been one of the hottest day's of summer. This adjudicator, on a first ever visit, walked the island and viewed the various places mentioned in your submission. You are well endowed with various choices for the visitor and the history and landscape of the island offers a welcome choice. We were impressed with your success in controlling the litter situation, but disappointed with your apparent inability to conquer the problem of derelict and abandoned cars and vans. This is now a serious problem for the environmental makeup of the island and one which can best be solved by the community. We urge you to get to grips with this problem now before the situation worsens and gives you a bad reputation: even the abbey did not escape from this problem. We would also recommend you upgrade your signage and improve the walking signage in particular, to make it compatible with the map illustration. All signage should be designed for walkers, so standard signs designed for the mainland are out of character on Sherkin. This adjudicator would endorse the request by the first adjudicator for the formation of a work programme: it will serve as a good discipline for the committee and raise your marks. Good luck for 2005.