

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bere Island**

Ref: **411**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **217**

Category: **B**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	50	47
The Built Environment	40	47	45
Landscaping	40	0	0
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	0	0
Litter Control	40	33	31
Tidiness	20	0	0
Residential Areas	30	0	0
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	45	43
General Impression	10	42	41
TOTAL MARK	300	217	207

Overall Developmental Approach:

Bere Island is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission and supporting documentation which was helpful in adjudication. It was a pleasure to have the map of the island which made the visit a more informed experience. It was good to note the walking routes available also and their associated sign posting. Your two-pronged approach to the management of Bere Island appears to be a good strategy; one group working for the environment and another for tourism. Your awareness programme regarding composting and recycling together with the need for regular beach and road clean ups and the involvement of school children is paying dividends. It is good to note also that you co-ordinate your work with statutory bodies and take advantage of programmes that are aimed to ensure informed overall development. Congratulations on the DVD produced by Failte Ireland of the island to promote Irish walking holidays abroad. We note your efforts to resolve related issues in this matter.

The Built Environment:

Landscaping:

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Litter Control:

Well done on the regular clean ups orchestrated for the spring and summer every year, particularly as these involve all members of the community - from households and businesses to volunteers and school children. The new pay per bag system is a good idea to get people into recycling and this will be greatly facilitated by the provision of the composting bin; we look forward to seeing the related brochure produced. At the time of adjudication a number of scrapped cars were noted; three of these were located at a scenic viewing point which is unfortunate given the nature of the amenity. We will also be interested to hear the outcome of the crusher which is scheduled to come to the island to deal with the problem of scrap cars. Litter was noted at one recycling point and dumping at a second one; this can be an unfortunate consequence of providing these facilities if they are not emptied regularly or people are careless - they can become eyesores in themselves. Hopefully by this time next year this problem will be resolved. Green areas at the ferry departure point were overgrown. The pier at the ferry point and another in Rerrin village were found to be quite tidy. We wish you well in planned developments under this heading.

Tidiness:

Residential Areas:

It was good to note that the new Cafe on the pier was complete and operational at the time of adjudication; being open all year round enhances facilities available on Bere Island for residents and more particularly for the travelling public and tourists. The grotto is an attractive development. The boundary wall of the school was well painted and murals here were admired; tree felling was in progress in the school grounds on the day. The community hall looked well also. Whilst the holiday home development looked well some consideration might be given to landscaping the large green area here using native species of course and in particular local species. The entrance and driveway to Lawrence Cove Marina and Craft Shop was admired especially in respect of its stone walls and outbreaks of heather. The area to the rear remains undeveloped at the time of our visit. The Craft and Wine shop looked well also and the timer cabin nestled under the pine trees is an attractive element of this area. Both the Post Office and Kitty's Restaurant and Cafe were well presented and gardens to dwellings at the top of Rerrin village were admired. It is good to note the proposed redevelopment of the old school as a Heritage Centre. Hopefully, the dated plastic neon beer signs on the public houses will be replaced with more appropriate signage at some point. The military fort was presented to a mixed standard.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Hedgerows around the island were admired for their displays of wildflowers such as dogrose, buddleia, fuschia, ferns and of course heathers at various locations. Stone walls looked well also. The townland names are a good feature and help the visitor to negotiate their way around the island, particularly in conjunction with the map. Outcrops of bare rock were noted intermittently which is both beautiful and visually dramatic. Well done on the installation of new lighting and on the continued improvements in this respect. Good road surfaces were noted throughout and your success in resurfacing under the roads programme is acknowledged. Street furniture was generally well presented.

General Impression:

The overall presentation of the island is good. With the aid of a map and good sign posting, it is

relatively easy for visitors to negotiate the island and enjoy all that it has to offer from scenic views of the mainland and seascapes to the enjoyment of wildlife, wild flowers and coastal amenities. The ongoing work in respect of litter, tidiness, road surfacing and other work appears to be being managed to an acceptable time frame and your community awareness programmes are effective. Your biggest challenge will be to continue with the level of maintenance achieved to date and improve on that whilst at the same time taking on new projects and preserving Bere Island's heritage and culture; the interactive CD ROM project aimed at promoting this at home and abroad and involving children together with the proposed publication of a book will be effective in ensuring Bere Island's popularity as a tourist destination whilst at the same time maintaining the quality of life and the islands environment for its residents.

Second Round Adjudication: