

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Heir Island**

Ref: **681**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **235**

Category: **A**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	60	36	
Litter Control and Tidiness	60	49	
Home, Harbour Areas and Other Facilities	60	52	
Representation of Roads, Walls and Hedgerows	60	47	
Overall General Presentation	60	51	
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>235</b>	

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Heir Island is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which included maps and photographs that the adjudicator found interesting and informative. The ordnance survey map was inappropriate for Tidy Towns purposes and a different one should be used next year with achievements for 2005/2006 clearly indicated. The island was beautiful on approaching from the sea with its magnificent beaches and stands of fuchsia in full flower. We note from your application that you work in conjunction with Cork County Council and Fas and that you enjoy the services of one Fas worker, well done on this. Your plans to develop both a Heritage Trail and a Wildlife Trail is commendable and we look forward to the fruits of your work in this regard. the Commemorative Mass initiative at the site of the Childrens Graveyard is a fitting memorial. Perhaps a few seated amenity areas could be provided for the Dun area which affords scenic panoramic views of land and sea in all directions.

### Litter Control and Tidiness:

The island was litter free on adjudication day, well done. Building materials were noted at a number of locations, no doubt these will be removed upon the completion of all construction work. We appreciate the difficulties posed by the disposal of waste on an island and applaud your recycling proposal; the proposed organic group initiative will ease the problem of waste disposal when up and running. Commendations to all involved in regular beach cleaning.

### Home, Harbour Areas and Other Facilities:

The harbour, pier and slipway were all presented to a high standard and were a pleasant introduction to Heir Island. Your plan to erect a community notice board on the pier is appropriate; when the proposed heritage trail and wild life trail have been developed information panels on these should be featured on the pier also. The proposed Community Centre will facilitate community cohesion and development. We look forward to the completion of refurbishment work to the school. Hopefully the 200 shelter belt trees planted to protect dwellings will survive to maturity; we agree that non native species and bedding plants are out of character on Heir Island. It is good to note the abundance of household fruit and vegetable gardens.

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

Very little signage was noted anywhere on the island, finger post signs with distances marked should be provided together with a map of the island at the pier. Recent road resurfacing by Cork County Council has been noted. Your plan to open and maintain new paths to the west of the bridge with the cooperation of landowners is noted and we wish you every success in implementation. Stone walls should be revealed more at intervals to highlight the beauty of the stonework. Verges can be left to feature wild flowers but will need a well thought out mowing regime to have the desired effect. Heather throughout the island was admired

### **Overall General Presentation:**

Heir Island is a beautiful unspoiled island which rewards a visit for any reason; we look forward to planned amenity and other developments and urge you to seek and use expertise available to avoid the mistakes made by other communities.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

It was a great delight to make a first visit to Inis Uí Drisceoil on a warm sunny day in August and make the short journey from Cunnamore Quay. The quay itself needs improved signage and needs a prominent identity at the pier wall. We also suggest you erect a fáilte sign at the island's pier wall. Though the trip out is short the uniqueness of the island is immediately evident on arrival. A display map at the pier would be helpful to orientate first time visitors. You also need improved signage on the island: -the existing signs are novel but not very effective. We liked the 'underdeveloped' layout of the area and your attraction is the natural state of the island with little intrusion from modern day development. Unlike other populated islands litter is not a problem or abandoned cars apart from one or two. We hope you will continue to welcome visitors and at the same time protect the natural fabric of this attractive island. The available brochure at the local tourist office is very informative and was helpful on adjudication day. Thank you for being part of the Tidy Towns movement.