

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Oileán Cléire**

Ref: **76**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **240**

Category: **A**

Date: **09/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	60	37	36
Litter Control and Tidiness	60	48	46
Home, Harbour Areas and Other Facilities	60	52	52
Representation of Roads, Walls and Hedgerows	60	51	50
Overall General Presentation	60	52	52
TOTAL MARK	300	240	236

Overall Developmental Approach:

Oilean Cleire is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition; thank you for your submission which included your new wildlife posters, a bilingual illustrated and indexed map, your three year plan and your application form; all facilitated adjudication. It is good to note that you work in conjunction with statutory bodies and that you have the support of the local community. Congratulations on attracting funding for a new Tourist Office, we note it is due to commence in September and we wish you every success in this new venture. The group is aware of the historical, cultural, social and environmental attractions of their beautiful island and are successful at promoting these; your annual Story Telling Festival in September must be a great success to be booked out in July (the adjudicator was disappointed)! Now that we are in the latter end of 2005 it is time to review your plan and formulate a new one to take you into the second decade of the 21st century.

Litter Control and Tidiness:

The 'Keep Cape Clear Island Tidy' signs were observed on alighting from the ferry and are an appropriate reminder for visitors. The regular litter patrols for the harbour and beaches are effective in maintaining this part of the island litter free to the extent that it was surprising to note plastic catering receptacles (mayonnaise) dumped behind the stone enclosure at Saint Ciarans Well. The recycling point on the pier was free of spillage however this adjudicator concurs with the suggestion of last years judge to enclose the facility with an attractive stone wall in the interest of visual amenity. We acknowledge that waste disposal is always a problem on the island and applaud your representations to the council in this regard.

Home, Harbour Areas and Other Facilities:

Oilean Cleire looked beautiful on approach from the sea and the presentation of the pier and harbour did nothing to change this perception, the area was clean and nicely presented. St. Ciarans Well is an attractive and appropriate feature; the notice board was neatly presented and finger post signage was good; might it be possible to provide distance details on the latter? The Craft Shop looked well however the curtilage area here was underdeveloped, this point can be made in respect of many of the islands curtilage areas, both commercial and private; encourage property owners to maintain these areas to a standard compatible with the building. Work was in progress on a new dwelling near the Craft Shop, this high profile development is likely to be completed for next years competition. Your submission for the Sustainable Development Award in respect of the solar panels at a number of campsites around the island has been considered.

Representation of Roads, Walls and Hedgerows:

Recently planted trees and the provision of additional seating has been noted, this will enhance the amenity status of their areas further. Weed growth at Cnocan a Choimhthigh and at the Fastnet Rock feature was quite rampant and should be checked. Stone walls around the island are overgrown and in too many cases barely visible; this is unfortunate as they are a most attractive feature of the island and appeared to be constructed in a different way to those on Sherkin Island; they should be revealed along stretches at intervals to highlight the natural beauty of the stonework and differences with those of neighbouring islands recorded if such exists. Some thought might be given to featuring a single bright colour for all field gates. flowering hedgerow was admired; roadside verges could be maintained trimmed to their outside edge where appropriate and allowed to grow naturally along the inner edge to provide step in space for pedestrians from vehicular traffic.

Overall General Presentation:

A journey to Oilean Cleire is amply rewarded with a most enjoyable experience and a promise to return.

Second Round Adjudication:

The sun shone brightly in contrast with the last time this adjudicator visited Oileán Chléire and the island was a hive of activity from large numbers of tourists, development workers and busy locals. The site that greeted this adjudicator disembarking from the temporary berthing gantry was one of an overflowing litter bin all too small to accommodate the demand. However, some time later it was emptied and in fact we now know that litter is removed to the mainland by accommodating ferries. We also encountered some burning of litter behind the No Dumping sign on the western side of the North Harbour. The Bring Bank at this location is poor and bottles were left in heaps at the base while the containers were only half full. We learn with interest that the Tourist Information Office is to be replaced with a new one and we look forward to an improved building from next year. This is a busy site near the shop and the office and there is a lot of traffic congestion. We suggest you get a scheme drawn up that would improve this area and bring some discipline to the traffic and improve the surface. Parking on the harbour wall side should be prohibited. This is the focal point of the island but is below standard and needs improved presentation. We learn from local information that abandoned cars are taken from the island a couple of times a year: this should improve the situation. We liked the Heritage Centre which is most informative, but poorly signposted. The island looked its best to date and this is reflected in an increase in markings: Árd mholadh do gach éinne a bhí páirteach san iarracht.