

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Sherkin Island**

Ref: **767**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **249**

Category: **A**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	60	44	44
Litter Control and Tidiness	60	53	51
Home, Harbour Areas and Other Facilities	60	52	52
Representation of Roads, Walls and Hedgerows	60	50	48
Overall General Presentation	60	50	50
TOTAL MARK	300	249	245

Overall Developmental Approach:

Sherkin Island is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thanks you for this years submission which included the Sherkin Island brochure with its summary of the islands history, landscape and beaches together with map and ferry timetable; this valuable brochure facilitates the visitors understanding of your lovely island with ease, however inconsistencies must be addressed. Again this year we note the absence of a planned work programme and urge you to submit one with next years application as this will enable further progress in the competition. It is good to note that the committee enjoys the support of the majority of the population and that you work with relevant statutory bodies. the 'Living Landscape' street furniture (finger-posts) are an interesting expression of the contemporary culture of the island together with your art galleries. The historic remains of the Franciscan Abbey and the Driscoll Castle are visually strong features of the islands landscape and culture and were being enjoyed by all at the time of our visit; we wish you every success in the proposed use of the roofed interior of the Abbey as an Interpretive Centre.

Litter Control and Tidiness:

Litter control was excellent on adjudication day throughout the island; the most important exception was the environs of the bottle bank at which litter was noted together with an overflow of wine bottles from the relevant container. Volunteers and Fas workers are to be congratulated on a job well done; the anti litter signs for visitors are effective. The derelict remains of many buildings are still a problem under this heading, vacant buildings need to be boarded up at their window and door apertures and perhaps brightly painted as an interim measure pending redevelopment. Well done on the sorting of waste materials for recycling and indeed on your awareness campaign to encourage all

members of the community to participate in the scheme.

Home, Harbour Areas and Other Facilities:

Congratulations on the re commencement of work to the community hall it will be good for the community to have this facility back again. the Islanders Rest premises is a fine development and hopefully it will have its curtilage area resurfaced within the not too distant future. O' Neills / Abbey Stores is reasonably well presented. The school was nicely painted however most buildings appear not to be painted, perhaps window and door frames could feature brightly painted colours where appropriate. Both the marina and the harbour were neatly presented and the range of services at the marina have been noted. Many roadside boundaries and entrances to homes are in need of improvement especially in the management of weed control. The islands natural flowering shrubs and hedgerow could be featured more in private gardens for landscaping.

Representation of Roads, Walls and Hedgerows:

If Sherkin Island has a colour / colours which represent it might field gates and street furniture such as seating be painted in the colour(s) to give a visual unity to the built environment of the island? Loose natural stone walls are a feature of the islands roads but this attractive feature remains obscured by overgrowth along most stretches; consideration might be given to revealing the beauty of the natural stone at intervals by cutting back the vegetation. Verges in most instances were overgrown to the extent that pedestrians found it difficult to stand back in off the road in order to allow vehicles to pass.

A notice board on the pier was tatty in appearance

Overall General Presentation:

Sherkin is a beautiful island with wonderful landscapes, beaches, culture and history and the committee are dedicated to promoting awareness of Sherkin Islands heritage utilizing a variety of media. Congratulations on your achievements to date, we wish you every success in maintaining a high standard of presentation whilst taking on new projects to bring the island to the next level within the competition.

Second Round Adjudication:

Once again this adjudicator was favoured with a most beautiful sunny warm day full of blue skies to walk the island and savour the beauty of the area. You have progressed since last year and this is reflected in your marks. We were delighted to find the Community Hall restored and once again offering community facilities, together with a community library. The Franciscan Priory provides a most impressive introduction to the island and is now a major attraction for Sherkin. The display illustrations are most informative and the service is free. Well done also on the collection and storing of materials for recycling. We feel you need a new signage blitz as there is inconsistency in the design, size and layout of the signs, and also on the accuracy of the mileage on some of them. The six single story houses with no name apparent are sweet in design: however, the environs are poorly presented. The problem of abandoned cars is still with you and needs to be tackled. You have raised your marks again this year, so well done.