

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Bere Island** Ref: **667**  
County: **Cork (West)** Mark: **275**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **28/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	35
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	14
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>275</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Congratulations on putting together a very comprehensive and informative entry which was very useful. The heritage conservation plan is extremely interesting and will be of great use to the island. The visitor information enclosed is also very well put together. Your entry shows evidence of very real cooperation and coordination between your group and other authorities, good use of available resources and a sense of progress is palpable. Your group is to be commended in this regard.

### **The Built Environment:**

The pier at West End (Oilean na gCaorach) looked busy but functional and generally neat. There was some debris in the water. The Lookout Café was unfortunately closed but the seated area and frontage looked well maintained. The hotel / pub along the main road was generally well-kept with a pleasant garden but the extension has become dilapidated. The church, graveyard and community centre are all neatly kept. The medical centre is old but in good condition. The dry dock and abalone farm are unfortunately very untidy. The national school looks great and the murals are a very impressive feature. The former national school is a fine building and will make a great heritage centre.

Rerrin and the Lawrence Cove were generally in good condition but there is a large derelict building that is unsightly. However, the row of businesses opposite is very pleasing, especially Murphy's Post Office, which is a real gem. Your proposal to make a visitor centre at the Lonehort battery is very impressive.

### **Landscaping:**

There is generally not much need for a great deal of planting, given the abundance of native and naturalised flora around the island but there are some common spaces such as the island at Rerrin where some flowers

would be an addition. Some tree-planting was noted. The grotto is very well looked after.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The variety of habitats on Bere Island makes it a fascinating place, from rocky shorelines to bog and upland heath. The roadsides are wonderful with masses of ferns, tall grass species and overhanging fuschia. In the bog areas, orchids, flags and reeds were seen. A small area of conifer plantation looked out of place. The visitor has ample opportunity to explore these habitats along the Beara way, the Sli na Slainte or the Cycle Route. Your heritage conservation plan contains useful information for the conservation and protection of these habitats.

### **Litter Control:**

With the exception of a few areas around the harbour (West End), the dry dock at Ballynakilla and Lawrence Cove, the island is generally litter-free. All involved are to be congratulated on this. The huge effort to remove dumped cars has paid off.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The recycling centre at Oilean na gCaorach is excellent and is very well kept. Perhaps the signage could be improved and used to include waste prevention and minimisation information. The work both completed and planned for the school is very commendable as is your cooperation with many groups in this regard.

### **Tidiness:**

Though generally a tidy island, there are some 'hot-spots' of clutter. These are at the West End Pier (dumping in water, pallets) , Derrycreeveen (abandoned machinery) and at Lawrence Cove (discarded marine equipment). These however, could be readily addressed to meet the high standard of the rest of the island.

### **Residential Areas:**

The island has two main population centres and both of these are generally well-kept. There are not many notable gardens but the native hedgerow species more than make up for this. Only a few derelict stone buildings were noted and efforts should be made to keep these looking attractive.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Not all roads are in good condition but there is a very low volume of vehicular traffic on this island compared to any comparable population on the mainland and so the roads are pleasant to walk and cycle. The Beara Way shares the road for much of its route and this does not make for conflict. Your plans to create new walking routes are highly commendable.

The 'main street' of Rerrin could be very much improved with some renovation.

### **General Impression:**

Aside from some litter and fly-tipping noted on day of visit, the general impression of Bere island is a very positive one. In fact, the range of positive environmental initiatives that have been undertaken by the islanders and are still ongoing far outweighs the negatives mentioned above. The adjudicator was given the impression of a community that is working hard to improve its environment. The current and planned use of the islands superb natural and visual attributes as a part of a walking experience shows great initiative and provides a good example of sustainable development. Well done to everyone involved - you are fully deserving of your large increase in marks this year.