

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Heir Island** Ref: **878**
County: **Cork (West)** Mark: **253**
Category: **A** Date(s): **28/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	253

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry to Tidy Towns 2007 and for supplying the very interesting map. It is very encouraging to have islands with smaller populations entering this competition. You may find that your group can get support from your local authority or other statutory bodies. It may also be useful to contact other Tidy Towns groups and ask their advice based on their experience.

The Built Environment:

The majority of the occupied houses appeared very well kept with several freshly painted. There seems to be quite a few new houses being built on the island and it is hoped that these will be finished in keeping with their surroundings. Some newer roofs were noted. The school is closed but it is believed that this will be reopened as a hostel. This could be very beneficial for the island. The restaurant, shop and gallery were unfortunately all closed on day of visit. These are all very pleasant buildings. Around the island several well-tended gardens were seen.

Landscaping:

Little by way of landscaping measures were seen on day of visit but it was noted that much of the waysides had recently been mown. The lush wild vegetation of the roadsides give a very wild and natural feel to the walking visitor. The dry stone walls of the island are a real asset and should be maintained.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Heir Island is an absolute delight in terms of abundance of wild plants. Even on a day as dull as that of the visit, the colours of wild plants such as field scabious, biting stonecrop and wall pennywort make the fields and

roadsides look very bright and wild. The hedgerows and haymeadows are very good insect and bird habitat while a relative abundance of trees such as willows and hawthorn are also great for birdlife. The beach and cliffs were lovely but it was too wet for much birdwatching!

Litter Control:

With the exception of some items discarded near the pier, there was no litter seen on day of visit. Some abandoned cars were noted. These may be removed in co-operation with Cork Co. Council.

Waste Minimisation:

Some composters were noted in gardens. This is very good to see as this is the most environmentally friendly way of treating waste. Advice and guidelines on minimising waste are available from Cork Co. Council. Suggestions are also given in the Tidy Towns material supplied.

Tidiness:

Some clutter, including abandoned cars was noted around the pier as mentioned above. What appears to be an old mobile fast-food outlet was seen at the roadside. The island is otherwise very tidy. The signage at the pier should be reworked as the existing signs have done their work!

Residential Areas:

The overall impression was of generally well cared-for houses and gardens. It is important for several reasons, including conservation, that the existing stone walls be maintained.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The roadways are in generally good condition and are very pleasant to walk. Village signs and directional signage to beach and other areas of historical or natural interest would be welcomed.

General Impression:

Heir Island is a lovely place to visit and a very welcoming feel to the island exists. It would be very beneficial to the island to have the signs at the pier (which really help to form the visitor's first impression) re-made. These should include a new map and indexed places of interest. Directional signage around the island would also be useful. The island is very nice for a few hours' walking and the superb beach would really be a big attraction. It is great to have Heir island in this competition and I look forward to seeing progress in future years.