

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Long Island** Ref: **1246**
County: **Cork (West)** Mark: **215**
Category: **A** Date(s): **28/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	35
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	215

Overall Development Approach:

Long Island was entered into the National TidyTowns competition by Comhdháil Oileáin na hÉireann as part of an overall initiative to assess the current environmental standard of the islands for residents and visitors alike. And as a TidyTowns entrant each island is entitled to compete for the Islands Award funded by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht affairs. It is intended to follow up this assessment with more special initiatives designed to benefit the beautiful islands of Ireland. A number of islands already directly enter the competition and supply adjudicators with information on community involvement and plans for the future. As this is a key feature of Tidy Towns, the adjudicator has awarded the marks for such involvement evident on the day of adjudication only. However your island would gain even more marks under this category by directly entering the competition next year.

The Built Environment:

There seems to be about 20 houses on the island. Several of these are in occupation but quite a few look like holiday homes. However, it must be said that these are very much of the same style as the others so don't stand out. One house is being built. Other houses are in good repair. There is little or no gardening.

There seems to be a mixture of styles and ages of houses on the islands, some have been rebuilt, others re-roofed. All in all, the buildings fit well in the landscape and given the undulating topography of the island, nothing stands out too much.

The pier is in use as a working facility and therefore not so welcoming as might be hoped. The national school is disused. There are no commercial facilities on the island.

Landscaping:

There is little evidence of landscaping works on the island in recent times.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The roadsides of Long Island are really lovely with wildflowers. Even in the pouring rain, there are very vibrant colours from devil's bit scabious, birds-foot trefoil and stonecrop. The stonewalls and roadsides are heavy with brambles and honeysuckle, giving the island a very lush appearance even with the absence of many trees. There are some non-native pines growing in places as well as some hawthorns. A number of the beautiful common spotted orchids could be seen growing opposite the old national school.

Some of the fields are reverting to a more natural state. Toward the SW of the island it becomes more boggy. Here there are stacks of deep purple (Erica) heather and masses of yellow cinquefoil.

A lovely mixture of crustose and filamentous lichens can be found along stretches of the walls, very pale and mottled, these stood out even in the rain.

Litter Control:

Unfortunately, dumped material was found throughout the island. Sites of fires were found with evidence that large household objects have been burnt in the not too distant past. Copious abandoned cars were all too much in evidence.

Waste Minimisation:

There was little evidence of recycling, waste transfer or storage facilities on the island. Therefore a nominal mark has been awarded only, although the potential exists to make real progress under this category.

Tidiness:

The roadways of Long island were found to be somewhat untidy on day of visit. Discarded material around some houses was largely responsible for this. There are overhead wires to be seen along much of the 'main road' especially obvious crossing the bridge in the middle of the island. However, this is not excessive.

Residential Areas:

Around 8 or 9 of the houses appeared to be in occupation at time of visit. These were spread throughout the island. A general impression gained was that there was not much gardening undertaken on the island. However, some crops were being grown near some houses and these are very much working areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There is one 'main' road that runs the length of the island. The road surface here is of uneven quality. The roadsides are a little overgrown in some areas but there are so many wonderful wild plants here that this is not a drawback.

There are no signs or markers anywhere on the island. This makes it very confusing for the visitor who may be traveling without a map.

General Impression:

Long Island is an extremely quiet and peaceful place that has much to offer by way of natural beauty. It is forms part of great illustration of a very different way of life. It is unfortunate that this is detracted from by the dumped and discarded items but this may be remedied. It is suggested that the residents contact their local authority in order to address this. Advice may also be sought from Comhdhail Oileain na hEireann. These bodies will also be able to give advice on suitable signage for the island.