

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Sherkin Island** Ref: **692**  
County: **Cork (West)** Mark: **270**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **28/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>270</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Well done to all involved in Sherkin's Tidy Towns efforts once again. It is obvious that much thought and effort has gone into your plans for this year. The liaison of the Island's Development Society with other bodies is very important and it is clear that this partnership is effective. However, a membership of 6 people on a committee for an island population this large seems a little low. Perhaps your continued success with Tidy Towns will motivate others to join up!

Your written application is very detailed and greatly assisted the adjudicator. It also shows an awareness of the many factors in the island's environment as well as a real dedication to its betterment.

### **The Built Environment:**

The National School was very impressive with its well-kept appearance, bright colours (flowers and trees, not just the buildings!) and obvious awareness of how to deal with waste in a natural way. Your Green Flag surely isn't far away!

The adjudicator learned that the island's post office and shop are now closed, which is a real pity. Hopefully these will be taken on and opened up once more as they are an important community focal point. There was no chance to visit the community centre as this is also closed but the library in the Portakabin was very pleasant. The poor weather meant in fact that many of the island's amenities were closed on the day of visit but the Islander's Rest and Jolly Rodger are well maintained. The church is also neat and well cared-for.

The Friary is very impressive but also, unfortunately, closed at time of survey. There is obviously conservation work ongoing and the completion of this should be looked forward to. The information on this

work is however, out of view. Perhaps some interpretative signs could be made for the outside of the Friary.

### **Landscaping:**

The general impression of roads, laneways and paths is very positive with well-kept walls and vegetation trimmed in some areas. The area around the Islander's Rest is very appealing. The bench and wall over the pier are very pleasant but spoiled somewhat by the telephone box in need of repair. Whilst there is an abundance of appealing native flora, there was little to be seen by way of decorative planting. There is room for improvement in the area around the Friary. The recycling area could also be sensitively landscaped with native shrubs.

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

The roadsides of Sherkin are bursting with wild plants and this makes a journey around the island a real delight. From the tall and pale wall pennyworts to bright and bushy fuschias and the electric colours of the stonecrops, the walls and ditches of the island are a real asset. There are substantial wet areas within the island and these were full of life of many kinds. The small patches of woodland and scrub were also very appealing. The beaches were all empty (given the weather!) but stunning nonetheless. It is fantastic that you have trained guides for organised tours. Many more people should thus be able to appreciate Sherkin's many wild species.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter does not appear to be a major problem on the island, almost none being evident on visiting. The beaches and shores were spotless. There was however evidence of rubbish having been burnt at the pier. This aside, congratulations are due to all who keep up this high standard.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Recycling seems to be high on the island's agenda and the recycling facilities are all well used and well kept. From your application waste education also appears to figure highly in the national school. However, recycling is expensive, especially on an island. Are there any initiatives to also reduce the amounts of waste being produced?

### **Tidiness:**

Although the areas visited were generally tidy, there were some notable exceptions. Some abandoned cars were seen, though it is acknowledged that these are a real problem for islands, also an aged motor scooter was left at the pier. The proliferation of wires as you approach the school could be addressed as it takes away from the lovely landscape of this hollow. The 'cluster' of signs at the crossroads above the harbour has some appeal but could be usefully integrated into a coherent system with better information including perhaps a new map. The 'old' style finger signage around the island is lovely but overall the signage system of the island could be greatly improved, while still including the best of the existing aspects.

### **Residential Areas:**

The overall impression of the built aspects of Sherkin is of a very well cared-for environment. Most houses and cottages are well-presented and some of the gardens are very pretty. Many of the newer buildings appear to be holiday or seasonal homes and it is to be hoped that these will be equally well kept.

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

Free from litter or clutter but teeming with wildlife, the byways of Sherkin are a pleasure to travel.

### **General Impression:**

It is clear that much work is done in the community to achieve the high standards seen on Sherkin. This is to be highly commended given the changes that the island has seen in recent times. There are some indications given above of some areas for improvement that will hopefully make a visit to Sherkin more pleasant still.