

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Whiddy Island** Ref: **1247**
County: **Cork (West)** Mark: **217**
Category: **A** Date(s): **30/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	20
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	35
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	217

Overall Development Approach:

Whiddy 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 were circa ten houses seen on Whiddy Island on day of visit. The houses seen were in good condition and the gardens well tended. There is only one commercial establishment on the island, the Bank House pub. This is very attractively painted and the seating areas well designed. There are no longer any other outlets on the Island. The area around the pier was very bust at time of visit, there being a ferry and trawlers at this harbour. The area around the pier was rather untidy with some discarded materials. There is also a tennis court and crazy golf court at this area.

Landscaping:

There is little evidence of landscaping in recent times on the island, with the exception of around the Bank House where there has been planting and landscaping of the grounds for outdoor seating. Another exception being works at the terminal.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The island is quite lush in terms of vegetation and in stark contrast to many of the islands further out in the bay. The hedgerows are very rich and are very old with mature blackthorn, hawthorn and willow. There are also many mature trees on the island. In the wetter areas these are dominated by willows. Small areas of marsh and bogland have formed with large beds of reed, rush, iris and frequent common spotted orchids. Many birds typical of Irish hedgerows were seen and heard, including blackbird, thrush and wren. There were many swallows seen. The weather was atrocious on day of visit, otherwise this adjudicator feels that many more bird species might have been seen.

The roadsides are very pleasant with colourful displays of purple loose-strife, birdsfoot trefoil and foxglove. The abundant ferns help the island to look verdant and there is much overhanging bracken and honeysuckle.

Litter Control:

Little litter was seen around the island, however, several abandoned cars and car parts were seen. There was also discarded construction materials in some areas.

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:

Unfortunately, a great deal of clutter was noted at the pier area. This included construction materials, a shopping trolley, buckets and fishing gear. Several cars were parked here and some of these look as if they are junked. The terminal area is very drab and does not look like any thought has gone into making it fit better into the landscape.

Residential Areas:

The area of habitation is across the island and those houses seen and surrounding areas were well-kept with some lovely gardening in some.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road quality throughout the island is better than many islands and is quite consistent. The roadsides are very pleasant with their lush vegetation and well-kept field boundaries. There is almost no signage apart from indication for the terminal.

General Impression:

The fields, hedgerows, roadsides and trees of Whiddy are extremely appealing and very beneficial for wildlife. The island is probably important habitat for many bird species and countless species of invertebrate. Almost all of the houses and one commercial establishment are well-kept and fit well with the island as a whole. The terminal is not the most attractive area but this is a necessary aspect of this industry. However, some efforts might be made to improve this area as has been done on many other industrial installations before. There are no signs to assist the visitor in traveling around Whiddy. It is suggested that the community work with the local authority to develop some simple signage system for the island. This could be further developed to incorporate some of the many natural aspects of the island.