

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Inis Tra Mor** Ref: **1244**  
County: **Galway** Mark: **227**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **07/08/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>227</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Inis Tra Mhor 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:**

Although the island once had a population of 190, there is only one occupied house on Inis Tra Mhor now. There are a number of ruins which include the national school, which was built in 1901. There are three harbour areas on the island only one of the piers is in current use. The water tower is a dominant feature of the island which is only 1 mile long and less than 200m wide at its narrowest point. In addition there are some outhouses in use for agricultural purposes.

### **Landscaping:**

There is no evidence of any landscaping works on the island in recent times. Much of the island is broken up into small parcels, many of which are being reclaimed by rough grassland and marsh plants.

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

There was formerly much peat extraction and cutaway bog remains. There is therefore a great diversity of grasses and rushes. Some of the fields have 'reverted' to bog with masses of heather, some gorse and bog cotton. On the single roadway, plants include birds-foot trefoil, tormentil, clover, black medick, self-heal and *Juncus effusus*. Bramble and bracken begin to dominate in some areas.

On the western extreme of the island purple loose-strife is in great abundance. Some of the wetter areas have bog pools forming. There are masses of meadow brown butterflies and some common blues were also seen.

Some interesting stonecrops were seen on some stones here. The rocks are nice to walk on but the shoreline is unremarkable, being largely covered with fucus. There are some freshwater springs on the island. There are some very dense lichen growths on some of the stone walls.

The island appears to be very rich in invertebrate life as there are many bumble bees on clover and seem to be many crickets in the wet grassland. Heading eastwards some birdlife is noticed, larks, robins and grey crows. *Fuchsia* grows massively here. Oxeye daisies are visited frequently here by hoverflies. Some great willow herb is found in more sheltered areas and a variety of bumble bees were seen. Trees have been planted at this end of the island to provide shelter for the houses here. Honeysuckle is begin to come into berry here.

#### **Litter Control:**

Some very few items of litter were seen. These were very old and weathered and may have been washed up or blown onto the island.

#### **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:**

There was no clutter noted on the island.

#### **Residential Areas:**

There is only one area of human habitation on the island. This is at the east of the island near the working pier. Here the houses are in good condition and are largely sheltered by a number of trees.

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

There is only one road on the island and it runs E/W. This is in fair condition and looks like it has been gravelled recently. Many of the walls are in good condition and fencing has been added in places. The profusion of bushy plants and the attendant insect life makes this a very nice place to walk. Access to some areas is difficult, however.

#### **General Impression:**

Inis Tra Mhor is a very pleasant island with a surprising diversity of plants and invertebrates. For an island with once a very high population, a surprisingly few buildings remain. Much of the island is difficult to access due to vigorous plant growth but would be a great venue in which to indulge in some natural history for a few hours. The views of the mainland from the island are spectacular and the peaceful and clean air of the Inis Tra Mhor is remarkable.