

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Inishbofin** Ref: **1242**  
County: **Galway** Mark: **235**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **12/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>235</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Inishbofin was entered into the National Tidy Towns 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 Tidy Towns 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:

The first impression of Inishbofin is that the houses are in very good condition and that there is a lot of holiday accommodation to be found. Although the houses and gardens of Fawnmore were outstanding, this is generally true throughout the island. There are a number of derelict and ruined houses to be seen by the roadsides, in common with many other occupied islands. Here however, the novel idea of decorating the windows and doors of the unoccupied houses really brightens up the streets and roads.

The mixture of styles in the cottages at East End is interesting and they are generally attractive overall.

The church and national school are immaculately kept although the school could benefit from some landscaping to take some of the sterile look from it. The Community Centre is a very large building with extensive grounds and efforts to maintain the gardens here were noted. The cattle grid at the entrance to this building should be repaired. Great work is taking place at the Centre.

The Post Office and shop at the harbour is in a portakabin. This facility would of course, look better in a permanent structure. Day's Hotel & Bar and the Heritage Museum/Shop look very well and were very busy on day of visit. The Doonmore Hotel also looks nice with its seating area overlooking the rocky shore. The Galley Restaurant looked great too. The hostel is of an older style and contrasts with the Dolphin Hotel and Restaurant across the road. However, the buildings do not jar with each other. The Inishbofin House Hotel is of a completely different architectural style and is, of course, very modern. However, there is such a mixture of styles on the island that the hotel does not seem too out of place.

### **Landscaping:**

There is little evidence of landscaping in public areas on Inishbofin. However, it may be argued that there is an abundance of wildflowers for much of the year so landscaping in several areas is unnecessary. Efforts have been made at several of the businesses and at the church.

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

The wild areas at Westquarter were fantastic. It was a real treat for the adjudicator going up Cnoc Mhor and Westquarter 'Mountain'. This was very easy climbing if not for the distraction of so many wild plants and of course the views. Heath vegetation such as tormentil and harebell was abundant. Some bog habitat areas were also seen. Also some pools and streams, a very nice variety of habitats. There are magnificent views of the entire island, Inis Shark, Inis Sceine Mor and Inis Gort and also a 'longways' view of the entire island. There is a steep slope down the southern side of the mountain but takes you straight to an Tra Gheal. This is surely one of the nicest beaches in Ireland! The sea was turquoise and no noise was heard apart from gulls and kittiwakes.

It was very pleasing to see evidence of practical conservation measures such as the protection of corncrake habitat at St Colman's cemetery and the machair and dune conservation project at an Tra Dumhach. The beach at the East End is also very nice.

### **Litter Control:**

Very little litter was noted on day of visit. There was some litter seen around the harbour area.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

There is one recycling area at the harbour. This was in quite good condition on day of visit. Environmental information, including waste management was available in the community centre. Some more signs encouraging waste reduction might be helpful.

### **Tidiness:**

The harbour area was unfortunately quite cluttered on day of visit. Much of this was associated with the harbour improvement works taking place here but some had been in situ for a while. Some discarded materials were also seen at Westquarter. It is noted that while some well-sited and thoughtfully place-named litterbins were seen, others are in need of repair or replacement.

### **Residential Areas:**

The standard of neatness of all the residential areas was high. It is obvious that both the islanders and holiday home owners take some pride in these dwellings with well-kept gardens, maintained fences and stone walls.

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

Road quality is generally good. Inishbofin has a very extensive road network in comparison with other islands and this brings challenges as well as benefits. The murals in the derelict houses is a great idea and should be continued. Off the main thoroughfares, the lanes and tracks are delightful. The walking trail at Westquarter is most memorable.

### **General Impression:**

Inishbofin leaves a very positive impression on the visitor. The island is busy as it is very popular with tourists. It is essential that better signage is developed for the visitor. The six-inch map of the island is very useful but could be improved. There is huge scope for a wonderful walking trail on Inishbofin. More information on the flora and fauna would also be very welcome. The obvious thought and effort that is made by the residents and business owners on the island is to be commended. This adjudicator looks forward to returning to further

explore this lovely island.