

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Inishlyre Island** Ref: **1235**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **201**
Category: **A** Date(s): **09/08/2007**

| | 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 | 20 |
| Waste Minimisation | 20 | 5 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 10 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 30 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 20 |
| General Impression | 10 | 6 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 201 |

Overall Development Approach:

Inis Lyre 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:

There is one centre of human habitation on Inis Lyre. This is a number of small houses and associated outhouses at the pier on the east of the island. There are around 8 houses in total to be seen. Of these, 5 are in at least part-time use, one is disused and another in ruin. There is a working farm among these buildings. The houses are all brightly painted and there are flowers in containers on some. The walls are in good condition.

Landscaping:

There is little evidence of landscaping to be seen on this island. However, the tree planting does give an overall impression of care in this area.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Although much of the island is under pasture, the amount of wild species to be seen is a very real surprise. Typical farmland species such as self-heal, creeping buttercup and rosebay willow-herb are to be seen but close to the cliff-tops there is a wonderful display of summer wildflowers. These include eyebright, catsear and harebells. On the more exposed sides, autumn gentian, wild thyme and burnet rose were found. As the cliffs ascend, ling and bell heathers grow abundantly. Some gorse was seen on some boundaries.

The island is rarely quiet as the air is filled with the noise of starlings, swallows and oystercatchers on the shoreline.

Litter Control:

Away from the pier, no litter was found on day of visit.

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:

Much discarded material was found around the habited area. This included materials associated with both marine and agricultural activities.

Residential Areas:

Almost all of the houses in the pier area were found to be well presented, freshly painted and with gardens and decorative planting. There were also a surprising number of trees planted in these areas. The clutter referred to above is an unfortunate aspect of this otherwise very pleasant area.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There are no roads or streets on the island with the exception of the short laneway at the pier. Discarded materials are visible here.

General Impression:

Inis Lyre is a very impressive island in terms of its natural beauty, the flora of the cliffs and the amazing views of the mainland and bay. The houses are obviously well cared for and nestle very sympathetically in this natural harbour. The discarded material does take away from the overall impression but this could be easily remedied. This island could possibly become a great destination for walking or natural history excursion with the addition of a trail or way.