

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Heir Island** Ref: **878**
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **256**
Category: **A** Date(s): **08/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	256

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry into the TidyTowns competition in 2009. It is good to have Heir Island back in the competition. Thank you for the information supplied in your entry. Please include a map and ferry details for future adjudicators. You have good numbers on your committee for such a small island. Well done on your participation in walking events. These play to the strengths of islands such as yours.

The Built Environment:

The Island Cottage restaurant and gallery looks very good. Burke's Shop and Camp Roaring Water looked very well and the camp was in action on day of visit. The former national school is well kept and it is believed that this is used as holiday accommodation.

Landscaping:

There was little to be seen by way of formal landscaping on the island. Your approach to maintaining natural and diverse hedgerows is to be commended. Your plan for native tree-planting is a good one as this will add habitat areas to the island.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Heir island is really lovely to walk and to appreciate the wildflowers. There are lovely areas of heath, bell heather and cinquefoils. Devil's bit scabious and cats-ears were very frequent. The walls and earth banks are very rich in fern and grass species. The cliffs were visited and these are really lovely. Your plans for developing a conservation plan and for hosting more walks are good. Perhaps you could combine these and develop a walk with a botanical interest? Two ravens were seen at close quarters over the cliffs. It is hoped

that the recent cuts to the REPS scheme do not impact negatively upon the farmers of the island. The beach is really lovely.

Litter Control:

Very little litter was seen on day of visit, well done. Some beer cans were seen at the cliffs. Thanks to your committee and all involved for keeping this island so litter-free.

Waste Minimisation:

Composters were seen in some gardens. For this category, focus on the prevention of waste from arising, rather than on recycling or disposal. Contact Cork County Council for assistance with this or seek advice from another TidyTowns group.

Tidiness:

The yellow pump could be repaired and the area around this tidied. Is the telephone box still working? It looks in good condition. The stencilled fingerpost sign is beyond repair and should be replaced. The old fast-food outlet should be removed. There is an old Toyota that should be removed too. The Heir Island Self-Catering etc. sign looks poor. This could at least be mounted on the wall.

Residential Areas:

There are some beautiful homes on the island and some very well kept gardens. Some of the colours are striking but all of the occupied buildings seen look well.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The little roads of Heir are lovely to walk. The adjudicator would suggest that a formalised walking route be established here as it is an easy walk and would be very popular. The surface toward the southwest of the island is lovely and well kept.

General Impression:

Heir is a lovely little island and is great for a day-trip. The walking and wildlife possibilities for the visitor should be explored. There are a few areas where attention should be paid to the clutter that is unnecessary. It is very good that your group is involved in the competition and it is hoped that you will see the benefits.