

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clare Island** Ref: **513**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **263**
Category: **A** Date(s): **28/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	32
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	263

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry into this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your well-filled entry form. Please try to make up a strategic plan, ideally based over a 3 or 5 year period. This will help you to plan your work and allocate tasks to appropriate seasons and resources, as they become available. Your committee appears to work well with outside agencies and access funding when required.

The Built Environment:

Could the ESB cable building be made to look better? The HSE building looked well. The Hotel looked well, but could be brightened up. St Patrick's national school was very neat and showed its Green Flag well. The church also looks well kept. The Abbey was closed (as before), which was a pity, as it would be great to see some of the paintings described so well outside. The Community Centre building was very busy on day of visit and looked well kept.

Landscaping:

While there is little formal landscaping on the island, there was evidence of some useful work being carried out. The planted bed opposite the heritage centre looked very well. There were several filled planters, pots and hanging baskets around the harbour village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There is a range of habitats on the island and this adds hugely to its diversity. The orchid-rich grasslands were explored for a long time! Areas of blanket bog, pools and marshes, cliffs and hilltops all make Clare island a wonderful place to explore. The map and guide that you provided was excellent for this. The Blue Flag was noted, as well as the LIFE programme flag. Well done. The SAC and other natural history information

provided on the board (Mayo County Council) near the community centre is highly detailed. A floral guide to the island would be a great idea. There is one for the Aran islands, which would be a good reference.

Litter Control:

The homemade 'half-round' timber bins are lovely. All bins must be kept emptied, though. At least two were overfull, at the Abbey and by the helicopter-pad. Very little litter was seen around the island. Well done to all involved.

Waste Minimisation:

Your recycling initiatives are to be praised and the recycling bins were spotless on inspection. However, please bear in mind the fact that the emphasis of this section of the project is the reduction and minimisation of waste. Work with your Green School on this. Your environmental awareness officer (Mayo County Council) will be able to advise you on this. If you can assess the amount of waste arising from different parts of the island or the activities thereon, you can look at ways that this can be reduced.

Tidiness:

The whitewashed walls at the harbour looked well. There are some isolated pieces of graffiti. Check regularly that signs are pointing the right way. It is clear and clean in most places, but a wrong turn could cause a walker to miss the last ferry! Some red-painted gates were admired. Would farmers consider adopting this practice around the main roads? They looked very well indeed. Some dumping was noted in an old quarried area, toward the signal tower. While this may be on private land, it is close to a way-marked trail and looks poor.

Residential Areas:

The vast majority of the houses looked great in bright white, by far the most common colour. The result is a number of villages with little impact on the landscape.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The quiet roads of Clare Island are an absolute joy to walk or cycle, as the adjudicator did on day of visit. The road surfaces are perfectly adequate for this use. The Clew Bay Archaeological Trail is excellent and was highly enjoyed.

General Impression:

Clare Island was extremely busy on day of visit, over 100 people were awaiting the evening ferry. The attraction of this island for walking, wildlife or heritage interest cannot be overstated. It is recommended that your group keep this in mind when directing your efforts. Well done on all of the work you have achieved to date.