

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: Bere Island - An tOileán Mór	Ref: 667
County: Cork(West)	Mark: 323
Category: B	Date(s): 10/07/2019

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	48	49
Streetscape & Public Places	60	40	41
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	37	38
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	39	40
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	20	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	66	67
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	36	36
TOTAL MARK	470	318	323

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh (Bere Island) - (An tOileán Mór) páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019. Thank you for your application, map, copy of your plan and supporting documentation. Your group Bere Island Tourism and Environmental Group have three sub committees dealing with various projects on the island. There is also a number of volunteers only too willing to help with various work programmes. The local GAA Club provides good support and you are fortunate to have workers that help with maintenance on a weekly basis and also help with new projects as required. Meetings are held regularly with the sub groups to plan the workload for the year ahead with each sub group taking responsibility for various projects. There is good support and assistance from the relevant agencies through funding and advice with projects. Communication to the wider community is through social media, local community radio, public meetings and of course word of mouth. There is superb interaction with the school who help with much of the work under the various categories of the competition. The school are commended on their achievements in the Green School Initiative. Your participation in the competition is important to the Tidy Towns unit. It is positive to note that since joining a greater sense of pride has been created with the community getting more involved with various projects that help to enhance and develop the island making it a better place to live and visit. Keep up the good work.

Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

Arriving at Bere Island on the ferry from Castletownbere you get the first glimpse of Bere Island on a beautiful summers day. The "Welcome To Bere Island" sign was noted. This gives a warm welcome as you set out to explore the island. The new natural stone wall was noted at the Wild Atlantic Way sign. This is a nice addition to the area and use of a concrete and wooden seat was noted and commended. The information panel in this area was read with interest. The Lookout with colourful seating to the front was admired on its presentation and busy on the day. It is great to note the number of walks available on the island and these are suitably colour coded on your attached map. Your work to keep the walkways is commended. Ongoing work was noted on stiles and signage. The Heritage Centre was visited and greatly admired on its presentation. This is very important for conservation and enhancement of the island. It is positive to note that the heritage centre is used to rekindle awareness and interest in traditional skills. The historical display is important for residents and visitors alike. The hotel was admired on its presentation and its welcoming feel. The School was also admired on its presentation and its colourful walls to the front. The recycled bicycle stand made from tyres was noted and admired. The Church and grounds were visited and you have ongoing work here, again the presentation was admired. Your projects on the Lonehart Battery is a brilliant project to undertake. This is an important historical site to preserve and maintain. The work you have already completed here is applauded and we look forward to its completion. Rerrin Village was also visited and admired. Well done on your work in this category and the work you do to maintain your islands

streetscape.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

You work to maintain and ensure the island keeps its natural and traditional feel. Your project at the back of the school is a good project and this also gets the youth of the island involved. The inclusion of apple trees and wildflower meadow is a brilliant project to get the kids involved in. Pots and tubs with seasonal plants were noted around the island at various point and they bring that extra splash of colour for the summer. The Grotto area is well maintained and well presented. Some seasonal planting was noted at what appears to be in front of the telephone exchange. Could you plant some hedging at this fence here to further enhance the area? It is positive to see you are working on the eradication of Japanese knotweed. You are doing good work with your greenspaces and new projects are helping to expand these. Do continue with your planting of native trees and shrubs that will encourage wildlife. You are doing good work in this category.

Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:

At the core of this category is three key areas and these are conservation, education and celebration. Education involves knowledge of local species and habitats and knowledge of local designated areas. The local Schools also get involved. Conservation involves maintaining of important wildlife areas and implementation of survey results. Celebration involves taking good wildlife advice and communication of the importance of the local wildlife heritage. This could be walks and talks on your findings and the use of information boards containing information about your findings in an area.

You have undertaken some new projects in this category namely the building of a bug hotel at the school. This is indeed a great learning tool for the school children. The farmers on the island play a huge role in this category. Their involvement in the REPS and GLAS scheme encouraged planting of native trees and segregation of land for wildlife. Perhaps a survey could be conducted here to see what species are noted and if this scheme has helped numbers to increase or if any new species are spotted. The walking weekends fit in with the area of celebration and this is important. These are a brilliant means of informing everyone on the abundance of plants and wildlife in your area. Well done on your work to date.

Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:

This category is about reducing the amount of waste produced by the community and better management of resources. These you are working on in conjunction with the school children who learn about recycling from the Green School Initiative. The children are commended on their work in this area. Recycling is a great way of using up materials that would otherwise be leaving as waste. This is particularly good for the island as the same collection service is not available as the mainland. Harvesting of rainwater and composting can be adapted by the wider community in their homes. As last year's adjudicator suggested quantifying the amount of waste reduced by these measures would help in monitoring your actions and determine how effective these measures are. A survey on a number of houses over a four week period to see if the waste leaving for landfill is reducing and if not maybe look at measures to reduce this. Shopping for food is one area where waste could be reduced by buying less food as most people buy too much. This would reduce packaging and result in less food waste. Growing your own plants from seeds, both vegetables and flowers would help in reducing on packaging and transport. Keep up the good work.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

As mentioned previously it was positive to see signage asking visitors to keep the island litter free. On day of adjudication only a small amount of litter was noted and this is positive given the amount of visitors to the island. Your litter patrols appear to be working and this is the best approach to combating litter. Having a litter control plan in place helps immensely. It is positive to note that you also have strand clean-ups and that you recycle as much as possible. The tourism and environmental group have set up a fund raising project in this area and for that you are applauded. The shorelines noted during adjudication were clean and tidy. The bring bank area was neat and tidy. Signage was generally good on the island. You continue to work removing old and scrapped cars. Keep up the good work.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

It is obvious from walking the island and exploring the many trails and walks that the residences have a great pride in the island. This is noted from the care and attention that they give to their homes and surrounds. It was positive to note a number of building projects ongoing on the island. Also where possible it is important to maintain and retain buildings of important heritage to the island. The waiting shelter and toilets were looking clean and well presented. Your application for a playground is positive and you are wished well with this process. The site you have identified will help to enhance and improve this area. Do continue your good work in this area and continue to work with the residents in this area.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

You don't have the traditional sense of approach roads that others areas may have but nonetheless you approach this category with the same enthusiasm as the others. The road surfaces are generally good in areas throughout the island. As you mentioned in your application you are working with the relevant agencies to address road surfaces in particular on the far east of the island. Hopefully given the nature of the projects being undertaken here this will be addressed. Do continue to work with the council and secure funding to keep addressing road surfacing.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate Bere Island. You continue to progress and develop in the competition and this is down to the hard work and commitment by you. We look forward to coming back again. Well done and you are wished continued success.