

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **QUIN**  
County : **CLARE**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20
Landscaping	40	28
The Built Environment	40	28
Litter Control	40	28
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>207</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The very concise application and excellent detailed map made it easy for the adjudicator to identify areas within the village. Quin tidy towns committee have obviously been able to harness the energies of all sections of the community. This is reflected by its standing in the competition. There seems to be a collective sense of pride in the village and long may it continue. Co-operation between the local community and relevant State agencies is also evident. I would suggest that a 3 year plan be prepared and submitted with next years application. Quin has not reached its pinnacle in the Tidy Towns Competition. It has potential to achieve a lot more.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The application form did not refer to any special measures being taken to protect and enhance the value of wildlife to the community. There is plenty of scope to do same. Quin would be the envy of many villages in this respect as it has a number of focal points to start with, most notably the River Rine with its well kept banks and the area in around the Franciscan Abbey and St Fichin's Church. The committee should consider engaging someone with practical experience in this field to help them to come up with some ideas . For example it might be feasible to develop a nature trail. Involve the young people via the school and youth club.

### LANDSCAPING

The tree planting and shrub/flower planting undertaken was both effective and colourful. The entrances to the village from Ennis, Tulla and Sixmilebridge were excellent, with grass margins neatly cut , trees well maintained and flower beds adding the required colour. The centre of the village looked impressive with colourful flower tubs, especially near the bridge. The siting of a shrub/flower bank in the village camouflaged an unsightly wasteland. Consideration should be given to using perennials for all year round colour.

The River bank offers more in terms of landscaping this could be achieved as part of a planned approach to creating a more conducive habitat for wildlife.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Quin has an array of impressive buildings which , with the exception of a few, were very well maintained. It was noticeable that a number of premises had cut stone facing which was very effective. The Garda Barracks, Church and Presbytery and School looked well on the day. Commercial buildings played their part also. The proprietors of the following are to be commended; Siopa Peig, Mo Gruaige, The Village Inn, Posal Office, Slattery's Paint Shop with its effective stone frontage, The Abbey Tavern and Malachys Bar. The stables across the road were nicely painted - even the horses looked happy. St Fichin's School [Quin Credit Union] is most attractive in that it has the Abbey as a backdrop.

Private residences including B&Bs were also well kept, unfortunately there were a few premises that were not up to the high standard of the aforementioned. The large hostelry in the centre of the village could do with a coat of paint at the very least. A number of derelict sites need attending to, eg. wasteland on the Newmarket-on-Fergus Rd with old mobile home and also one on the Clare Inn Rd with dirty wire fencing. Owners should be encouraged to do something positive with these as they stand out in what is otherwise a lovely village.

### LITTER CONTROL

There village was virtually free of litter on adjudication day. Bins were strategically placed around in the village. Maybe bins should be more rustic in design to fit in with the overall look of the village.

## TIDINESS

Generally the village was neat and tidy with a few exceptions. A number of signs need to be painted and also the watertower gate needs a coat of protective paint. Weed control was good on adjudication day.

## RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The majority of residences were in excellent condition freshly painted, nice gardens with boundary walls and fences well maintained. Areas such as Arbutus Grove looked very well, with the immediate green area cut and planted. Also the housing estate on the Ballykilty/Clare Inn Rd deserves mention. There are a number of new houses being built on the outskirts of the village care should be taken that these building sites are kept relatively tidy at all times.

## ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads and back areas were in general very well maintained. The Ennis Rd entrance was very clean with good signposting, residences in excellent shape, grass margins cut, well appointed tree planting and lovely shrub/flower bed arrangements. The Abbey offers an impressive focal point on this road.

Tulla Rd is equally impressive with flower beds, trees, grass margins cut with street furniture appropriately placed. Ballykilty/ Clare Inn Rd is well maintained except for the site with the planning application notice. Grass margins on the Newline Rd need to be cut back. This road is very narrow. Approaches should be made to the Clare Co Council to provide pass ways for vehicles. Newmarket-on-Fergus Road in comparison to the others was reasonable, site with old mobile home detracts from entrance. Sixmilebridge Rd looked well. A number of new houses were under construction and as stated earlier it is important to try to keep sites relatively tidy. Main Street was in good condition all footpaths were level and well maintained.

## GENERAL IMPRESSION

As in other years the Tidy Towns Committee are to be commended for its efforts in getting all sections of the community working for the betterment of Quin. It is an extremely difficult task to encourage and mobilise people to contribute so positively because not everybody might have the enthusiasm or interest, but Quin has succeeded in this respect. I have no doubt that the few negative issues mentioned in the body of the report will be rectified by next years competition. Keep up the excellent work, the way Quin looks is testament to your efforts.