

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KINVARA**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16
Landscaping	40	23
The Built Environment	40	22
Litter Control	40	22
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	166

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the Urban and Village Renewal proposals. Kinvara has a unique character and is a natural attraction for visitors. Both locals and tourists will find your proposed developments of great benefit. The plans will greatly enhance the attractiveness of the Town and we wish you every success. Working in close co-operation with the county Council and FAS will be immensely useful. As well as the long term plans for the development of your Town, you are commended for the 3 Year Programme of ongoing improvements. The plan to locate telephone cables underground and thus rid yourselves of unsightly poles will be a major improvement. The new Hotel complex is a most welcome new amenity.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have not given any information regarding wildlife in your area. May we suggest you avail of the services of the Area Environmental Officer, or other competent person, to initiate a programme for the gathering of information on the habitats of animals and birds and the variety of wild flowers in the Kinvara area. This may well be a project that teachers and pupils in the School may wish to undertake. When planting trees and shrubs you may consider some native berry producing items to provide food for birds in the area.

LANDSCAPING

The Galway approach was, with the sign in Irish, very well presented and the flower planting excellent. The twinning sign is most attractive with the flower planting and shrubs. The actual base of the sign would benefit from some flowers. The work proposed for developing the area near the Church and School will transform this approach. The plan to have an enclosure of trees at the Market Square will provide a focal point and meeting area for both locals and visitors. The lay-bye on the Ballyvaughan approach is superb but needs constant attention. On the day of adjudication farm machinery was parked on the grassed area and this detracted from the overall effect. The planting of shrubs and flowers on approach roads is to be commended - but planting is but the first step. The areas need to be kept well maintained. Delightful flower bed near Kinvara Community Centre on harbour road.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Dunguaire Castle with its magnificent location must be the envy of every town in Ireland! Indeed throughout Kinvara you have buildings of real substance. In future planning you may consider the possibility of colour co-ordination to further enhance the Town. Church & School were both neat and tidy. McMahons/Esso Garage had nice planting at the side of the building. Quay House and Harbour House to be commended for their floral decoration. Similarly Mount Carmel Caladh, with its colourful wall mural looked very well. Tig Ui Congaile, brightly painted with lots of hanging baskets and shrub planting and pavement tables was most attractive. Kinvara House, Cobblers Restaurant, and J.P. Flatleys, are also worthy of mention. There is nothing to compare with stone walls. Kinvara has another asset here - but they must be well presented and enjoyed. That means the removal of everything that spoils the stonework, overgrowth, weeds etc. With such an influx of visitors you need to pay particular attention to the provision of street furniture. Your long term plans for the development of the slipway is exciting news. The construction of a Promenade Walkway leading to Dunguaire Castle is long overdue but it will be immensely popular and beneficial. Meanwhile attention should be given to the actual Quayside area. We note your plan to provide more public seating which is very necessary. Picnic tables are a necessary amenity. There is little point in suggesting to you minor improvements at the Quayside area. You have given the matter much thought and produced an excellent Plan for the future. We wish you the success you deserve in whatever you undertake.

LITTER CONTROL

There was a scattering of litter at the car park at Dunguaire Castle. A litter bin here is essential.

TIDINESS

You have a problem with open areas. The area at the side of Winkles Hotel is untidy. A key factor in the Adjudication Criteria is evidence that the whole community is involved in caring for the environment. If you can spread the message you will get results. Any consideration being given to recycling facilities?

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The Housing estate beside Centra/McMahons (no name visible) had nice tree planting along the wall but grass was rather high. The houses were neat but lack of floral decoration was striking. Castlevue Park had commendable individual efforts. The shrubs and bedding plants just beyond are a bonus. If every resident of Kinvara could be persuaded to produce just ONE hanging basket or window box imagine the transformation. Eternal vigilance is called for to keep weeds under control along boundary walls. Another point to ponder - for the benefit of visitors are all Estates named with a recognisable sign! Is there sufficient signposting to direct the visitor, of amenities within the Town.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

First impressions are important, therefore approach roads need constant attention. Grass is high at the Castle car park. The Ardrahan approach was overgrown. There were signs of work on the Ballyvaughan approach. A great pity is that so many excellent stone walls are hidden by weeds and grass. When planning for the future keep in mind the needs of the disabled.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Kinvara is a beautiful Town and much progress has been made to further beautify the area. Stone walls, in a society used to concrete, are a very attractive feature. Please expose the stone walls in your area, free them from all covering, and you will delight many. You have excellent plans for future development but I am sure you will retain the unique character of Kinvara. You will always have things to do - some little, some large. In the former category you could enhance the water pump with bright paint and flowers. You could encourage homeowners to maintain their properties in good condition. You could pay more attention to signs generally. How about a nice stone Welcome to Kinvara sign. A major problem will be derelict sites. Watch them and insist that the County Council invoke the Dereliction Act on your behalf (that is when all other attempts have failed). Kinvara must have fertile soil as you have an abundance of overgrowth, particularly on approach roads! But you know the problems to be tackled and as you say there is a lively and enthusiastic community, keen to develop their marine village. A new Kinvara is emerging but with its old charm. You are doing a fine job and your efforts will be appreciated by all in the years ahead.