

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GLIN**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21
Landscaping	40	27
The Built Environment	40	26
Litter Control	40	26
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	195

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Many thanks for your detailed responses to the questionnaire and map both of which were very helpful on adjudication day. You have obviously identified your local "problem areas" and with the work of your evidently dedicated committee of twenty you should have no problem tackling them. The proposals put forward by your Architect are very comprehensive. She would appear to have realised the village's immense potential and formulated a plan of campaign based upon both restoration of worthwhile items of architectural heritage, and practical planning for the future. The plans laid down in this document should give the community as a whole, goals to achieve in the future and foster a pride in these accomplishments. One particularly exciting proposal is that for the vicinity of the castle area. The landscaping suggested should greatly enhance this area.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Although you neglected to respond to the section in the questionnaire devoted to wildlife, it was with a certain pleasure that this adjudicator noted the abundance of environmental delights within the town and its environs. The trees by the Church of Ireland were positively alive with the sound of an extremely active and noisy rookery! The riverside area by old castle ruins was quite overgrown to the stream area itself. However, the completed work on the opposite bank with its horse chestnuts and willow trees etc on a gravel bank was most attractive. The finished product should be a positive delight. The existing little bridge is very charming.

LANDSCAPING

The charming traditional milestone on the Tarbert road should be painted up. The picnic area looked fine and the planted area opposite incorporating the road signage looked very well. Another attractive planted area was opposite the school. The enchanting stone walls leading down from the church to the sea road looked magnificent. The amenity area with the bench on the cobblelock and concrete paving slabs opposite the old castle was greatly admired. The proposals for the main town square should be a great asset to the town. Some weeds were noted to the bases of the trees along the main street. A solution that has been successful in other towns is to plant them with flowers.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both the commercial and public buildings of Glin looked to be reasonably well presented on adjudication day. The school boundary wall needed painting although the school itself was reasonably fresh and the grounds reasonably well maintained. The old National school was boarded up which looked quite sad. The Health Centre could be freshened up before next year's competition. The verge area to Telecom Eireann was overgrown. Although the station itself was very bright, the boundary wall was quite flaky. The Church of Ireland and proposed heritage centre with its stone spire on the top of the hill was quite charming and the grass was in the process of being cut on adjudication day. The new stone boundary walls were admired. The area between the two sets of gates was quite overgrown. The Garda Station was very fresh. The Catholic church was fine but the gates and railings were a little bit dull and should be freshened up before next year. Weeds were noted to the kerbside. The old courthouse is a fine stone building, although the railings could be freshened up. It was a positive hive of activity inside on the day. Glin castle gate, shop and entrance on the Tarbert road looked quite well, although it was quite weedy to the sign and at the base of the stone walls. The broken portion of wall nearby should be restored. The entrance to Glin castle by the Church of Ireland terminates the axis of Church Street. It could be freshened up, but the beautiful roses creeping up the side looked quite breathtaking! The whitewashed tower to the castle walls was positively gleaming! Orla's looked very fresh in acid yellow with a royal blue trim. As did the Credit Union and the Four Seasons. Shopkeepers should be encouraged to replace their curved plastic canopies and signage and replace them with more traditional awnings (like that of Hogan's drapery and grocer's which is an attractive old shopfront) and more appropriate timber signs. There are many fine traditional shopfronts in the town such as Dunnes, Geoghans and in particular the old hotel

beside Conway's with its Art Deco lettering, three-panelled sash windows and fan-lit doorway. It was quite charming in a dark green trim to the cream coloured walls. There were some beautiful floral displays, such as a very fresh O'Shaughnessy's attractive window boxes, J.C. Bank's very colourful hanging baskets and Horan's supermarket lovely window boxes filled with petunias.

LITTER CONTROL

The litter patrols were very active on adjudication day and spotted in several locations! However, despite this a small amount of litter was noted: a single plastic bag near the Castle gate shop and entrance; some more litter on the very long Tarbert approach road; outside the school; at the stone boundary wall to the graveyard and at the top of the pier.

TIDINESS

Weed Control was a problem on the day. Outbreaks were noted to the kerbside beyond the white-washed tower on the Tarbert approach; along the kerbside coming up to the National School (a corrugated iron makeshift gateway nearby looked quite unsightly); to the forecourt area of the GAA grounds and along the kerbsides on Main Street. Yard areas and outbuildings should not be neglected when considering this category. There was a rather untidy-looking yard area beyond the school which was quite weedy and had piles of building materials lying around. The warehouse/ factory/outbuildings at the Glin Enterprise Centre beside the Corby housing estate looked quite unsightly. There were some empty sites with corrugated iron sheds nearby which also looked quite untidy. The bare concrete block boundary wall by the alleyway near the top of Main Street should be plastered and painted. Oisin's, obviously a former ballroom or cinema looked very grubby and stained. There is a fine derelict stone building on Mary Street which would be well worth restoring.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this category was quite inconsistent. Two houses of note were the attractive garden near the school with its mix of different coloured snap dragons and a charming ivy-clad house further on. The house near the Health Centre with the abundant hanging baskets and front garden filled with roses was greatly admired. The Corby housing estate was well maintained with beautiful trees, although the grass to the public open space was roughly cut. The houses themselves were very fresh - the house on the corner with the white-washed wall had a magnificent display of lupins. Marian Place housing estate was reasonably well kept and the new trees were admired but the road surface was uneven. The boundary wall between the estate and the Church of Ireland is bare concrete block and should be plastered and painted, and the grass removed from the open spaces. The magnificent house on Mary Street with the fantastic display of very colourful hanging baskets and window boxes filled with petunias and pansies. There were some rather flaky houses on Main Street near the Mary Street junction.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Tarbert road with its beautiful view over sea, was quite weedy to the kerbside and a little overgrown on the opposite side of the road. The retention of the traditional square nameplate signage is to be highly commended. The Ballyahill road was quite weedy, the site for sale with the chainlink fence, was quite overgrown. The directional signs near the junction of the road from the end of Church Street back down to the sea road could be freshened up. The Foyne's road with its crenellated stone walls to the pier area was admired. The pier itself could have been neater in its presentation. The timber post and barbed wire fence to the recess at the top of pier looked quite unsightly. The gate to the small outbuilding on the pier should be painted.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The town of Glin is one of great charm, architectural and historical significance. The magnificent view to the Shannon estuary as one travels down the wide main street is quite breathtaking. It looked well on adjudication day and has the potential to perform extremely well in the competition.

