

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **INCH-CLARE**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	25
The Built Environment	40	21	21
Landscaping	40	21	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	15	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	18
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	161	154

Inch, Co. Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for returning completed entry form, together with Work Programme for improvements. You have an unusually large area to cover bearing in mind the limited population of Inch. You now need to work towards creating an acceptable focus point within the village. Much of your problem relates to wide, badly kept surfaces and this will need to be tackled over the coming years. This will call for a great deal of landscaping, post development, which will require a lot of maintenance. Your vision for the development of Inch should be to create a rural village with character. You would be well advised to contact West Limerick Resources, who have, in association with the locals, produced several village improvement plans.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The principal buildings looked well again this year. The church is attractive, but could be much enhanced by simple landscaping of the car park. That need only involve improved surfacing, better layout of car spaces and landscaping of the border areas, to include shrubs and flowers. The school is well presented. Like most rural and urban areas there are a lot of new houses under construction. However, in Inch most of the houses have large areas between them, which created many open spaces. The houses on the hill have a lovely setting and this area is well presented. The entrance from the roadside could be improved by having it more defined.

LANDSCAPING

The treatment of the base of the village identity sign is colourful and commendable. The hanging basket development at the stone bridge is questionable. This is hardly necessary in a rural village and a clean up of the bridge area would give better results. You have made a good start by building a stone wall near the church and when properly landscaped this area will be much improved. Ensure that your developments are plan led, leading to an overall improvement. There are a lot of overgrown open spaces that need attention - these principally relate to areas between houses.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The potential for promotion of wildlife would be best served around the river area. However, the plethora of wild trees surrounding the houses up the hill offer great scope for the propagation of wildlife. The wildness of this area should be protected.

LITTER CONTROL

While there was some litter in evidence, this is not a major problem in Inch. The church and school area was totally free from litter.

TIDINESS

Because of the many unattended and undeveloped open spaces and wide road margins with poor surface, there is an air of untidiness about Inch. This will be improved when your plan begins to take effect. Again this year the individual effort is praiseworthy and many residents were observed working on adjudication day. The collective effort will depend on your committees ability to get the full backing of the community.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of housing in Inch is excellent and many residents have worked hard to present their premises to a high standard. New developments should be encouraged to finish well with good quality landscaping. In terms of house planning, it would be to the benefit of the village if housing development took place in the many suitable sites between existing housing. This would strengthen the focus on the village and would enable you to develop inwards rather than sporadically outwards.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Commercial operations should be encouraged to keep their side and rear entrances well presented. In general this is not a significant problem in the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You need to define the village core with greater emphasis. You might consider the erection of two failte signs and perhaps some appropriate street furniture. If and when enthusiasm and energy permit you should consider a village park, that would act as a focus for the village and provide an attractive environmental service for the community. Well done on your progress since last year and keep to an agreed plan in pursuing progress.