

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	34
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	210	207

Quin, Co. Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for comprehensively completed application form and very detailed map - these were of great assistance to the adjudicator. We would recommend that you also produce a simple 3/5 year plan setting out targets, the action required to achieve same and put a time scale on this. We note that the local community are very supportive of your efforts and this is obvious on the ground. We also note that you have a good working relationship with the Local Authority, Fas, Shannon Development and your local School.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Quin is dominated by the Abbey with its great historic presence and the maintenance of the Abbey Grounds and the adjacent areas which you carried out last year is essential. The fountain is an extremely attractive feature following its refurbishment. Other buildings of interest are the ruins of St. Fineens Church and St. Fineens Hall which is now used for community activity and was well presented on the day of adjudication. Both the Post Office and the Garda Barracks look very well, with bold colour schemes which are attractive. On the Ennis approach the Mid-Western Health Board Clinic looked well and also the old National School on the Sixmilebridge approach with its wooden window boxes and terra cotta and stone flower containers. The Church and grounds were immaculate on the day of inspection. On the Newline Rd the School was well maintained and tidy. Most business premises were well presented and attractive especially the Abbey Inn and adjoining Ardsollus Restaurant; Mo Gruaige Hair Salon; P.J. Slatterys Shoe Shop; Siopa Peig and the Centre Foodstore. The butchers shop adjoining an attractive two storey stone building facing down the main street was well maintained but the window was cluttered with many signs. At Powers bar the stone planting area in the Car Park adds to the premises and could be developed further. The Stables on the Sixmilebridge approach is well painted and neat and tidy. Mulcahys Bar is well kept and nicely painted - however, we would suggest a wooden sign here would be better than the present plastic one. With regard to what appears to be outdoor seating in an open sided building next to the Pub this whole area would need attention. However, if creepers were planted to climb up the poles and a more permanent job done on the roof of this building it could become attractive - more people are inclined to eat and drink outside these days if the surroundings are pleasant. Good work has been done on stone walls in a number of areas and work was in progress on such a wall near the Abbey Tavern on the day of Adjudicators visit.

LANDSCAPING

Over the years much work has been accomplished in this area and ninety per cent of the projects already undertaken are still well maintained. On the Ennis approach the grassed area and tree

planting on the right is maturing nicely and trees infilled where gaps occurred. Some of the stone flower beds nearer the village were in the course of being re-constructed on the day of adjudication and nice planting here was noted. On the Newline Rd the tubs of flowers are good and also the planting outside two storey yellow house near village. In the village, the area near the Abbey Tavern and the Kalgoorlie Gold Rush Memorial is attractive on both sides of the road. On the bridge where there are up to 10 window box type planters, the adjudicator would suggest that these be removed and used elsewhere if possible - in a village strong with such excellent stonework and good grassed areas they are too prettifying whilst very attractive in themselves. The large flower bed in the middle of the main street which masks the undeveloped area behind it, was full of colour and very attractive on the day of judging, but needed weeding. At the top of the main street the tubs at the corner with petunias were very colourful and the rowan trees planted here were also attractive. The landscaped site at the viewing area for the Abbey on the Tulla Rd with seating and table is attractive. However, the flower beds on the opposite side of the road needed weeding and one was awaiting plants. There was any untidy heap of gravel in this area also. The planting opposite Malachy's Bar needed weeding and the wall needed painting here also.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

In connection with the river, it was noted that the pathway to the riverside amenity area and the amenity area itself has been rather neglected. This could be very attractive - however, if seating were being provided, a railing would also need to be provided to prevent children falling into the river accidentally as the drop is rather steep. We have noted that you are providing ducks in the river and therefore this is another reason to develop this amenity. To progress in this section further research should be carried out on the flora and fauna in your area and it would be good to contact the Irish Wildlife Conservancy and other appropriate organisations to get their advise on how to go about this.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control, in the main, was very good on the day of adjudication and the litter bin next to the entrance to the Abbey was emptied during the adjudicators visit. We note that some extra litter bins have been provided . However, we also noted that there were two bins (one on a pole and one free standing) at the corner of the Tulla road and would wonder if they are both necessary here or could one be put in a more advantageous position. Some litter was in evidence in the car park next to the Church. If it were possible it would be good to replace the rather battered yellow litter bin on a pole outside the school on the Newline road.

TIDINESS

The village gives a good impression of tidiness and everyone in the community appears to be co-operating in ensuring that this is the case. On the road to the right of the Sixmilebridge road it would be good to have the old mobile home removed. In general

all signage needs to be looked at as mentioned in the previous report. On the approach road some spraying is needed outside private houses - the weeds should be taken away first as if just sprayed they will die and wither, looking very unattractive. Abbesside House B & B on the Sixmilebridge approach would need to paint or replace their sign.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most private houses in the village and on the approach roads are very well presented. In the estate off the Newmarket Rd by the water tower, the houses were well maintained but the communal grass area needed to be cut. The grass was cut on the roadway down to the estate but the fencing and hedging on both sides need attention. The Arbutus Grove estate of detached private houses is exceptionally well maintained with good tree planting and grass. The corner yellow bungalow has provided a large colourful rockery which enhances the whole estate. The entrance to the garden centre on this road needs to be fully completed. On the Newline Rd the houses are well presented with one notable exception near the village.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There does not appear to be any speed limit signs on the Ennis side of the village. The old Shamrock B & B sign at the house next to the Health Clinic on the water tower approach, needs to be removed as does the Telecom Eireann tape around the pole nearby. In general we would make the point that inside the village signs all grass/other areas outside houses should be either cut, cleared, and area sprayed or if wildflowers are being encouraged through planting, that this should be obvious. On the Tulla road the black doors of the shed and gate near the village need to be repainted.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Obviously Quin is one of the villages very involved in ensuring that its environs are tidy, attractive and environmentally friendly. It is also obvious that most of the Community in the village are an integral part of the work being carried out. We would see you making further progress in the Competition in the years ahead and look forward to future developments.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (13/08/97)

The village of Quin is one which is steeped in historical significance with a wealth of architectural and archeological heritage. It looked well on the second adjudication day. However, there were one or two problem areas. Weed control seemed to be a problem, weeds were apparent to the kerbside along the Limerick Road, to the forecourt area of the Health Centre and to the kerbside on the Ennis Road opposite the attractively planted beds filled with petunias and roses. Road signage was still a problem, as mentioned by the first adjudicator. The signage at the crossroads was quite rusty and directional signage to Quin Abbey and the inauguration place were quite grubby. The retention of the traditional square village nameplate sign on the Tulla Road is commendable however it does require some repair work. A badly

stained gable to a house at the Tulla Road junction creates a bad impression on entering the town from that direction. Landscaped areas throughout the village were admired, in particular, that adjacent to the attractively presented Ard Solas Restaurant. An overflowing litter bin at the picnic area on the Tullagh Road and papers further along this road created a bad impression. The parking area opposite this could perhaps be extended further as it proves quite dangerous when traffic stops to take photographs of the fine view to the abbey. Along the Ennis Road perhaps the edge of the grass bank could be defined as it currently "bleeds" into the road surface. The retention of the old Mile Stone at the Tullagh junction is highly commendable. The Garda Station looked very fresh with its bold colours of peach with terracotta trims.