

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	26
The Built Environment	40	23	22
Landscaping	40	24	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	23	22
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	173	166

Kinvara, Co. Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for completing the entry form. It was very detailed and helpful on adjudication day. The committee are working very hard and it is obvious that there is good community involvement. Kinvara is looking very well. Don't feel that you lost marks last year. This is not the case. An entirely new competition was introduced last year, so marks awarded, in other years had no bearing whatsoever on last years competition. The extra marks you have received this year have been very well earned. You are to be commended for involving the children in your many projects. Educating the young people to care for the environment is so important, after all, these children will hopefully be the Tidy Towns committee of the future.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is a very good effort being made by the business people in the town. The shopfronts all look most attractive. The facades of most premises looked freshly painted. The new hotel The Merriman Inn looks really beautiful. It really dominates the village. The new school is also well presented. The Community Hall and Credit Union look good. The Pier Head, Tig Ui Congaile, Keogh's, The Fuchsia Bell and Mermaid Gifts are all worthy of special mention. There is a lovely little thatched cottage on the right hand side of the road as you approach the village from Galway. I do believe that this has replaced a derelict site. Congratulations to those involved. Siopa na mBad and the other shop in the main street are great examples of how a derelict house can be presented. Other towns and villages could certainly follow your example. What a pity that the street furniture has been removed. Certainly they looked lovely in the photos supplied, and judging from where they were strategically placed they would have greatly enhanced the area.

LANDSCAPING

Generally the landscape in and around Kinvara looks very nice. The planting of trees is so important in a town or village. I see from the entry form that you plan to plant further trees towards the end of the year. Do not just plant them for the sake of planting. Make sure that each tree or group of trees has a purpose. The open space at Castleview could be presented to a higher standard. Some weeding at the kerbs is needed. Some planting should be done at the green area at the Parish Church.

The stone flower beds throughout are most attractive. They really blend in beautifully with the landscape and add a great splash of colour to the town. The hanging baskets throughout also look lovely.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is good to see that the school children are participating in projects relating to wildlife. Again you should identify the habitats

of the area. Perhaps you would consider opening up a nature trail and encourage both locals and visitor to enjoy it. Kinvara has such wonderful natural amenities. The slipway at the quayside is a great improvement and it was being utilized very much on adjudication day. Also the provision of the street furniture here looks great.

LITTER CONTROL

For such a busy town, litter control in Kinvara was quite good. It would appear that everybody is doing their bit to combat litter. As was suggested to you last year you should erect a litter bin at the car park at Dunguaire. Perhaps you could ask Shannon Development to provide this, as the only people using the car park are the visitors to the castle. Also, more litter bins could be provided in the town, maybe the business premises could sponsor them.

TIDINESS

I hope that you are successful in securing re-cycling facilities. This is very important and where possible should be provided in every town.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses on the approach roads and throughout the village area are very well maintained. Great attention is given to the gardens. One or two of the walls at Castlevew could be painted. Also this park should be named, similar to the sign erected at Convent Road. Generally there is a great use of stone throughout.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach road from Galway is well maintained. The Welcome sign should be in both languages. Also you might consider changing the containers both on the Galway Approach and the Ballyvaughan Approach. They look a little shabby. Perhaps a stone flower bed similar to what is in front of the school should be considered. Also the area surrounding the sign on the Galway approach should be tidied up. First impressions are very important to the visitor entering the town. The Gort Approach road has been newly surfaced and looked well. Again perhaps a Welcome sign would also be appropriate here. The side roads are presented to a good standard.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Kinvara looked very well on adjudication day. You have set yourselves realistic targets and would appear to be accomplishing them. I understand from your plans that a walkway leading to the castle is on the agenda. This would be a great amenity for Kinvara. Congratulations on the work carried out to date and continued good luck in the future. I enjoyed my visit to your lovely town.