

Tidy Towns 1997

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 17-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	34
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>195</b>

## **Glin, Co. Limerick**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your detailed responses to the questionnaire these were accompanied by a map which was very helpful in identifying local landmarks etc. The inclusion of a section of a village renewal plan relating to the Castle Area was also welcome as it gives an insight into future plans for the village. Glin is a village that has a rich historical past and the proposed plans as put forward by Siobhan Mulcahy Arch embrace this past as well as identifying the future needs of the village. The committee is large by normal standards; this is an indication that it involves representatives from other organisations in the community which is a good thing. The committee also seems to have a good relationship with the Local Authority, FAS and other public service bodies, the benefits of which are to be seen in the village.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The standard of presentation of public, commercial and private premises was very high and there was work ongoing on adjudication day. The choice of colour schemes employed was excellent and there were examples of some lovely bright combinations. The School and its grounds were in good condition with the boundary wall painted. Its amazing the positive effect a simple coat of paint can have. The Church of Ireland and heritage centre were in pristine condition and the surrounding area was very tidy. Pairc Ui Chathlain on the outskirts of the village was presented to a high standard but it could do without trailers parked at its parking area. The RC Church was in very good condition as were the surrounding grounds, boundary walls and railings. The Garda Station was very well presented and looked as if it had recently been refurbished. The Telecom building was also in good condition; it is good to see public buildings being maintained in such a manner. The Old Courthouse is a fine structure and a focal point in the village. Glin Castle dominates the village and both entrances were up to an acceptable standard although the entrance on the Tarbert Road was a little cluttered on adjudication day. The following commercial premises deserve special mention for the manner in which they have presented their buildings. The Four Seasons with attractive pastel colours, Kiely's Food Stores and the Credit Union Building, were all in pristine condition. The village possesses shopfronts that have lovely old facades; some like Hogan's, O'Shaughnessy's, Geoghan's and Dunne's on the corner of main street were excellent. A large number of shops had colourful hanging baskets, tubs and window boxes. Adams Garage and Forecourt on the main road was very tidy and well presented, an example to others in the trade. The village is not without its problems in terms of unsightly or derelict buildings. The Old National School, while not derelict, needs to be revitalised as it looks rather forlorn at present. The Oisín Cinema at the Limerick end of the village and roofless houses on Castleview Road are just two more examples of bad dereliction.

Hopefully the committee will have success in getting the owners round to their way of thinking.

## **LANDSCAPING**

The amenity park on the bank of the estuary was very appealing with nice shrub planting complemented by appropriate park furniture. The planting scheme across the road is very attractive and gives an inviting look as one enters from Tarbert. The planting scheme to be completed at Glencorbry Estate and Marian Place will be a major boost to both areas. A very nice planting scheme at an attractive ivy clad house across the way from the school was admired, as were the stone walls on the back road up to the Church.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The committee's proposals to preserve rooking at Glin Heritage Centre and to introduce duck to the pier and the attractive bridges at the old castle are very welcome. Glin has the advantage of having a number of areas that are ideal wildlife habitats especially the riverside area near the old castle ruins. One often tends to overlook the fact that the village is situated on the Shannon Estuary, a major habitat for a varied selection of wildlife species. I suggest that the committee give special attention to this category for next year's competition and try to initiate a project that would involve local schoolchildren. Advice should be sought from a local wildlife expert.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The litter patrol from the national school is an excellent idea as it gives the children a sense of worth and feeling that they are looking after their village. There was very little litter evident on adjudication day except for some wrappers at Marian Place and on the path on the Tarbert road. Keep up the good work.

## **TIDINESS**

Weed control is still slightly problematic although most of the village had clean kerbsides. There were pockets of weeds to be seen at Pairc Ui Cathalain, adjacent to Marian Place, and on the Tarbert approach road. There was a deal of what could be termed as untidiness around the village; some of these have been mentioned under previous sections. Suffice to say that the committee are aware of the problem areas and are taking steps to rectify the situation.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The standard in this category was quite good; there were very few obvious blackspots. The Corby Estate was in very good condition with nice trees and well managed open spaces. The houses were very well presented, some with beautiful gardens. Hamilton Terrace is a very attractive row of houses on the Tarbert end of the village. Marian Place residents had their premises in very good condition but the road surface was a little uneven. There were a number of very attractive private residences in the village

and its environs. One that took the eye of this adjudicator was the very striking house across from Adams Garage; this had a very appalling stonewall and a nice garden which had an excellent planting arrangement

### **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The approach road from Tarbert was maintained to a high standard even though weeds had begun to grow at the kerbside. The Athea Road was well maintained with verges well cut, this road has nice stonewalls with a number of attractive houses on each side as you enter. There were a few unsightly open spaces on this road which need to be improved. The Foynes Road was in excellent shape. The Pier area, which is very visible as one passes on the way either to Limerick or Tarbert, was in reasonable condition. A number of blackspots identified last year have still not been fully been taken care of.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Glin is a very pleasant village with a beautiful view across the estuary as one passes through. Great strides have been made in the competition over the last number of years and improvements are continuously happening. The committee is doing an excellent job in trying to encourage locals to work for the betterment of Glin, to date they have succeeded admirably.