

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	30	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	215	210

Quin, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for returning completed entry form and map. Are you working to an agreed plan and if so let us have details of same. This is more important now than of recent years because of the many new developments that are at present underway. Your support from the local community and other agencies is what will lead you to raise your standards and increase your marks.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The comprehensive list of buildings mentioned in last years report is once again up to standard this year. However, you now have a demanding challenge of ensuring that new developments blend in well with existing buildings. You need to consult with developers and ensure that all buildings are well finished and landscaped. The wall outside St. Fineens Hall will further enhance this building. The school looked well again this year and the treatment of the flower display opposite is excellent and blends in really well with the rural ethos of the village. You have a great deal of stone buildings and stone walls and you may now have reached the point where you should concentrate more on planting and the creation of green areas, coupled with appropriate flower planting. You need to develop more permanent planting areas and cut down on the modern flower tubs, which are really more suitable for urban areas, that do not have the same available space for planting as you do.

LANDSCAPING

You have worked hard in this section in recent years and the fruits of your labours are now in evidence. The treatment of the fountain area is typical of what should be pursued in other areas. You have a weakness on many of the approach roads, which are overgrown and present an image of untidiness. We are not looking for low cut margins, but you do need to improve. The large beech tree in the centre of the village is adequate on its own and there was no need to plant trees near it which will pose a problem in years to come. The landscaped car parking area overlooking the Abbey is well presented, but the red brick usage should not be repeated. Some of the older houses have excellent wall creepers that add to their appearance. The 1993 memorial to the Gold Rush has gone shabby - a half hour of attention here would improve the text face.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your best opportunity here is along the river and you should list the wildlife in the area and try and erect a display sign illustrating same. This has been done successfully in Ennis.

LITTER CONTROL

One of your strong points and a vital one for the overall appearance of the village also. Litter control is good throughout, though the litter bin outside the school should be replaced with an improved type - have it free standing rather than on the pole. Some gutters have an amount of weed growth and these should be sprayed in May for best effect.

TIDINESS

In general the village is quite tidy, but new developments are causing temporary problems and unfinished gateways, roads, and open spaces project an image of untidiness. Tidiness also extends to signage which is not great and in places (beside Village Inn) too cluttered. Yield signs and speed limit signs need painting. If the local authority won't paint them you should do it yourselves. Don't forget the details of farm gates and other entrances, all of which contribute to keeping the village tidy. The stains on the path at the fuel pump should be removed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

As mentioned, the new house building - single and in groups will be vital to the villages overall appearance. Try and maintain the rural ethos in all of this and don't let Quin become a satellite town of Ennis.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Because of the layout of the villages many side and back entrances are open for viewing by the public. There is a problem with road surface between the boundary walls of some houses and the roadway - in particular on the Sixmilebridge approach. Some owners have gone to great trouble to keep their side entrances in good appearance and this is acknowledged in your markings.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

In summary, you have done well again this year and you now have potential for further raising of your standards but new developments will need to finish well and blend in appropriately with the environs of Quin - well done.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (12/08/98)

The village looked beautiful on the evening of second adjudication. There is a lot of construction work underway in Quin and it is good to see the high standard of quality that is being achieved for new developments. These appear to be sensitive to their environment. Just do take care that all building materials are removed upon completion of work. Look out for incidental weedy side areas also. Some consideration might be given to revealing and restoring

stone wall along the Kilkishin approach road from just before the nameplate to the existing stone wall near Mallachy's Bar. The wildflowers featured at the base of the stone wall on the road past the school add local interest and colour. Flower displays throughout the village are in full bloom, well done. The gold rush stone appears to have been repainted since the first adjudication, well done. The Garda station looks quite magnificent with its brightly (painted) façade and gable and boundary walls. In fact the entire village has a very colourful overall appearance due to both the well painted buildings and the numerous flower displays.