

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	27
The Built Environment	40	26	23
Landscaping	40	26	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	16
Litter Control	40	24	23
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>173</b>

## **Kinvara, County Galway**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

This adjudicator had not been in Kinvara for four years, and immediately noticed the very striking improvements. The Tidy Towns Committee and associated bodies are to be congratulated. Apart from the obvious physical changes, there is now an air of confidence and bustle. Next year, on your map, please mark all the sites which require special observation - for example, The Glebe was not marked, and several local people did not know where the Garden of Remembrance could be found.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There is a fine cohesion about the village centre; the terraces of shops are attractive and the taller ones in the main street are particularly handsome. Only a very few are now in need of freshening up with paint. Almost all business premises are bright and inviting. There are several well designed and painted shopfronts; a number would certainly merit consideration for the national competition were it not for some mass-produced or plastic signage, plastic bunting, or other accretions. Examples of dereliction are now wonderfully few, and do not need to be pointed out. The castle is, of course, architecturally outstanding; this adjudicator was particularly struck by the plain R.C.Church (though technically outside the competition area) which is maintained with great simplicity and care. It is remarkable how new developments blend with the existing.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The very attractive planting in lay-byes and at the 40 mph sign on the Ballyvaughan Road give a most inviting foretaste of a well loved village. Floral displays here and there on approaches as well as in the centre, especially those in stone bounded beds, have a natural and harmonious look. The grassed spaces and extensive tree planting at the seafront are admirable. The open space at Castleview Park, adversely mentioned last year, was especially trim. Two minor points - the flower container on the Ballyvaughan Road still needs painting, and the plastic sheeting in the Inn's front flowerbed has a scruffy appearance.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The marine and rural nature of the surroundings has been positively commented upon before: it is good to see continuing respect for these elements. The activities of the group which is concerned about the effects of raw sewage deserve great commendation; presumably they have taken their findings to the highest authority. The participation of students and young people in wildlife projects as described in the questionnaire is admirable.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

In spite of difficulties mentioned in the questionnaire regarding litter bins, there was very little disposable litter seen on adjudication day. The Castle car park was virtually litter free.

## **TIDINESS**

The few cases of dereliction certainly contribute to a not entirely tidy aspect. One open yard in the main street surely does not need to be quite so untidy, even if renovations are in progress. The committee's persistence with re-cycling is admirable.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

This adjudicator was impressed by the generally high standard of maintenance of both old and new housing. The old-world terraces at the junction of the Gort road give great charm to this important central area. Street houses seemed to be as well looked after as business premises; it is hoped that the few which are vacant or not so well cared for will shortly join those which are experiencing greater prosperity. The circular estate at Castlevue appeared to be much improved this year. Developments such as the sympathetic privatisation of the old Garda station, and the imaginative use of old stone facades at an ongoing development on the seafront, seem to be in keeping with the traditional townscape. New housing at Convent Road was noted.

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

Surfaces and paving are reasonably good, except at the Castle car park. The out-of-town church car park was immaculate on adjudication day. New public seating is first class. The matter of open yards and entries is one which might be given consideration.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

A well-kept, lively and rapidly developing village. While this adjudicator feels that some of the colour schemes are over-eyecatching, this is only a personal view and is not reflected in the marking, where good paintwork is the criterion. The concern of this committee for the environment over and above pure appearance is most encouraging.