

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 29-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	28
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	23	24
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	186	186

Kinvara, County Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Kinvara is a lively bustling town full of colour and natural attraction. Much of the overall developmental approach supports this activity and the committee is to be commended for its efforts to keep improvements on going from year to year.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The buildings in the harbour area are by and large in sympathy with their surroundings. The vibrant colours contrast well with the sea and old stone harbour architecture, although the redeveloped apartment buildings and their stone walls present modernity which will take time to mature. The shops and residential buildings along the main street reflect the old world character of the village and are well presented, painted and maintained. The camouflaged treatment of a derelict site as a grocery works well but dereliction is still a problem in the car park between Rosaleens Restaurant and Keoghs Bar. Village Craft and its adjoining house were particularly well maintained. Care needs to be taken to ensure that new and replacement buildings are in sympathy with the character of the village overall.

The Merriman Hotel with its massive thatched roof is quite striking if imitation traditional.

LANDSCAPING

The grass areas around the harbour are fairly well maintained. On the inspection day there were heaps of un-collected grass cuttings. A little more attention to trimming would improve presentation. There was quite a lot of hanging basket floral display and this added to the colour and presentation of access and main streets. Landscaping on the Ballyvaughan side of the village works well with a picnic area featuring a fine display of tree plantations and shrubs. The Memorial Garden looks very well and is a pleasant island of peace within tow minutes of the main street.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Concern for water quality clearly important and your further plans to develop a hide observatory are commended. Kinvara is a so well located to the important work of measuring the quality and progress of the natural marine environment that it should be an intrinsic part of your tidy towns endeavours.

LITTER CONTROL

In general terms Kinvara's litter control is working well in most areas of the village. However on inspection day the litter bin to the left end of the green as you view the Pier Head Pub was overflowing with a virtual 'dump' of plastic bag waste stacked around the litter container. There may be a problem with visiting boats etc. off loading their waste, but it is a difficulty which must be addressed.

TIDINESS

There is some kerb weed, wirescape particularly the 'birds nest' of wires on top of the post beside the Pier Head Pub, derelict buildings/open spaces which affect an otherwise tidy presentation. The finger post sign at the Gort Road corner is cluttered with 10 signs, the for the Caves positively dangerous at head height. The recycling bins are nicely screened behind trees.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The older residences in the main shopping areas of the town are well presented. Convent Road and Convent Park were quite well presented and with one or two exceptions, well maintained green areas. The horse shoe shaped housing development at Castle Park was impressive with well presented green, scots pine focal point, and modern non intrusive lamp standards.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads from Ballyvaughan and Galway are attractively presented. The coast road in particular along the sea front at Castle Park to the Harbour is a very impressive stone edifice which is attractive to view, provides safety, and gives visual access to fine views towards Dungguire Castle

The footpath on the Ballyvaughan side of the village is damaged.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Kinvara is a highly attractive village, well presented, and with great potential. There is a good spirit among the community which has effected a progressive improvement over the past number of years.