

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 29-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	34	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	28	29
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	220	218

Quin, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for well completed entry form and good map which was helpful on the day of adjudication. Quin is a charming village containing the very impressive Quin Abbey. The commitment of the Tidy Towns Committee and the community in general to Quin's development and improvement is to be commended.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church and Garda Barracks are very well maintained. So too is the School, but here the gates needed painting. St Fineen's Parochial Hall is bright and appealing. A number of public houses such as the Abbey Tavern and Monk's Well are contributing by their décor and planting. However, in the case of the Abbey Tavern, the gable end of the pub which is very visible at the entrance to the village needs to be painted and the planting at both pubs was rather weedy and overgrown in places. Malachy's Pub on the entrance from Sixmilebridge is also well maintained but the car park/yard next door was quite untidy. . On this road the Rooska B & B, the Post Office and the Peter & Paul Credit Union were well presented. Corbett's foodstore on the main street is out of keeping with the character of the village, with PVC windows and doors – also the window of the shop is totally cluttered up with notices and announcements. In the village, Siopa Pheig, Quin Meats and the Gallery Coffee shop were also well presented. The Eircom brown telephone boxes are appropriate and fresh and clean.

LANDSCAPING

Many areas have been very well landscaped throughout the village and on the approach roads to good effect. However, none better than the picnic area for viewing the Abbey on the Tulla road. This is an exceptionally good development encompassing all elements – good landscaping, litter bin, picnic tables, good parking area. The large flower containers throughout the town, both on stands and resting on the ground are very effective (especially the ones on stands). However, a number of business premises, whilst contributing to the effort, have used plastic hanging baskets and containers which are not appropriate. There are lovely stone walls throughout Quin and we would suggest that any ivy should be removed from these as otherwise it will damage the structure in due course – ivy was noticed particularly on the wall opposite the School. Special mention must be made of the river and fountain areas where your work has been most worthwhile. Railings near the fountain were being painted on the day of adjudication.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

We note that you cite the river area on the entry form as a wildlife area but all green areas and planting contribute under this category. On the Newmarket approach, a wildlife garden with predominantly poppies and cornflowers was a delight. Here the hum of the bees and bird song was like music.

LITTER CONTROL

Although there are many, many litter bins in and around the village and even though we met a roadsweeper doing his work, a certain amount of litter was still in evidence – not much but in such a village as yours, it was noticeable. Perhaps the roadsweeper could be instructed to keep watch for litter in such areas as on the way down to the river at the Abbey Tavern side and by the School. The bins on poles have been commented on before – these may be effective but they either need to be painted, replaced by new ones or removed as they now stick out like a sore thumb and are not in keeping with the rest of the village and its development.

TIDINESS

Wall bases and kerbsides were mostly weed free throughout the village although on the approach roads some areas outside private houses needed attention. There is mostly a neat and tidy appearance to the village. It was noted that the car park next to the Monks Well was being swept during adjudication. Attention to detail is important and a poster for the Planet Circus was noted on a pole near the Church - fly posting should be removed immediately when an event is over. The untidy yard near Malachy's Pub has already been mentioned and at the stables opposite the fencing on top of the wall was also untidy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Private houses in and around Quin fully contribute to the Tidy Towns effort including the new housing estate on the right past the Credit Union where rose planting has been undertaken on the way in and the houses themselves are very well kept. Special mention must also be made of the housing estate off the Sixmilebridge approach where further houses are being built at present. The landscaping here is very good and always well maintained. The house covered in virginia creeper in the middle of the village also deserves special mention for its good maintenance and lovely garden next door. We noted that thirty four new houses are to be built near the river and trust that these will be in keeping with the character of the village and that the new residents

will involve themselves in your tidy towns efforts. On the Newmarket approach the new housing estate near the town is very well kept and landscaped. On this road also, new town houses opposite the water tower are nearing completion and should be encouraged to become involved.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Directional signage is a problem in Quin. There are too many signs, they are not cleaned and some, such as the sign for Limerick at the turn to the Tulla road, are broken. There are signs for Ballykilty Manor Hotel which appear to have been painted over – should these be removed? On two approach roads the Failte signs with the wording “keep our village tidy” needed to be repainted. At the entrance to the Abbey the signage here is good and very helpful.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Quin is a town which is in a state of change at present with all the new residential building taking place and also the works on the new entrance to Quin Abbey which the OPW are due to commence. Quin is also a village which has progressed well in the Tidy Towns competition and has the potential to progress further with more attention to detail and targeting work still to be undertaken. We await developments with interest and wish you well with your future endeavours.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (07/08/00)

Quin looked especially well on the day of second adjudication, the display of wildflowers along some approach roads was most appealing. Litter control was good and there were adequate litter bins. A tree might be planted in the small space between the Credit Union building and the Abbey Tavern to soften the visual impact of the gable wall of the latter building. Alternatively a climbing plant might be considered for this wall. Encourage householders of new houses to be vigilant regarding their roadside boundary walls and areas. Landscaping was much admired and is maturing nicely.