

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	36
The Built Environment	40	32	30
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	32	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	27
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	227	220

Quin, Co. Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the entry form and detailed information. The size of the Committee is of moderate size (10 no.) and there should be some time given over to the development of a work plan that will extend over three to five-years. This is an important element in the Competition and requires submission of this documentation and as such this category has been reduced in marks. It must be recognised that not only is this an easy category to achieve significant marks, but it is also very important so that information can be dispersed to outside people as well as assisting in the adjudication of the village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Quin is dominated by the Parish Church and ruins of the Abbey. This has had an impact on the development of the village and the presentation of views within the village. As such, housing and commercial development divides into two areas, with the heritage block separating these developments. All public buildings are very presentable and match in with the presentation of the Abbey. The Abbey has been provided with very good viewing points from different roads. However, it is a pity that the rear of the church is so poorly presented when seen from the Tulla road and perhaps a long-term investment in large trees to partly screen the Church should be considered. The bridge is very well presented and follows the established theme associated with many bridge in County Clare. The marks for this category have improved because of the positive approach to the use of colour in the village setting and the quality of presentation of the built environment. The Garda Station is also very well presented.

LANDSCAPING

There are lots of potted plants that contribute to a village setting as they are very well placed or located at strategic points. The potted roses along Newline Road, in the vicinity of the National School, are an effective way in restricting parking on road verges and add to some seasonal colour. However there is a need for the Committee to change their current approach to landscape within the environment. The provision of potted seasonal planting should be retained. However, there is a long-term requirement so that all efforts are not lost during each year of annual planting. There must be a long-term plan to establish permanent planting and this should be worked out in conjunction with Dúchas.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Quin has significant opportunities to develop this category, as there is a very strong rural connection because of the open views to the Abbey. The river Rhine is modestly presented and many of the hedgerows leading into the village are well cared for. An example of where retaining the natural environment has worked successfully would be along Newline

Road, opposite the National School, where all the wild flowers have been left to grow and the hedges are well cared for. This aspect of retaining natural elements must be encouraged and assist in future Development Plans for the village.

LITTER CONTROL

Though Quin has quite a small population, there would be a significant impact during certain seasons by tourists or visitors. On the particular day of adjudication there was no litter to be noted and it was also very easy to get rid of it and the Committee must be complimented for making management so easy.

TIDINESS

Perhaps the greatest impact on tidiness is not the presentation of buildings, but the awkward siting and significant number of road signs. This must be controlled and better presented and the Committee is recommended to approach Dúchas to establish if there are other methods to allow for such interpretation. Quin has a unique ability to allow for the presentation of a heritage site from distant points and this will involve the provision of interpretative signage throughout the village, thus recognition of this future element must be considered in any Development Plan

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The new housing at the water tower provides very good colour and it would be hoped that in future years the planting of this area would integrate the new development with the surrounding countryside. It is noted that the provision of flower planter areas at the entrance walkways to this development are very well carried out. Arbutus Grove has matured very well and the strong canopy of trees definitely aids in integrating the built environment with the surrounding countryside.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The presentation of roads and back areas is quite varied for this village. The road leading to the main highway has been developed with some quite large housing which has been set back from the road. There is a need for this housing to tackle the very untidy gravelled areas, which seem excessively large and alien to the traditional village pattern associated with Quin. The road is quite messy in the vicinity of the water tower, but this may be a result of recent development. All side road areas have a very high standard of upkeep. The parking area overlooking the Abbey, on the Tulla road, needs bollards to be replaced. However, the facility provides a super observation point for the Abbey. It must be recognised that the view of the road leading from Newmarket-on-Fergus needs to address the front walls of all the gardens. This is because there is no overall plan to produce a harmonious entry point to this portion of this village. There is a need to define the pedestrian areas and perhaps

install some street trees so as to reduce the separation between private garden and public space.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Quin provides a very successful presentation of many of the categories within the Competition. All the lead-in roads and provision of interpretative parking areas make the village easy to use and an environment that one would want to explore. The T-junction is presented very well because of the good colour schemes and overall the village provides a very welcoming response to visitors.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (28/07/01)

The retention of the square traditional sign on the Portumna side of the village was greatly admired. However, it unfortunately sported a hole and should be repaired before next year's competition. The beautifully maintained picnic area on this road affords the visitor a magnificent view to the Abbey. The abundant floral displays throughout the village looked quite magnificent. But, as mentioned by the first adjudicator, do try to ensure that planting affords the village year-round "feedback" in terms of permanent planting. Signage could have been to a higher standard. Directional signs at the junction of the Main Street and the Portumna Road were broken and quite grubby and indeed directional signs at the village centre were also grubby and quite faded. Besides these minor issues, the village had an extremely neat and well cared for appearance on adjudication day.