

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Quin** Ref: **85**
County: **Clare** Mark: **243**
Category: **B** Date(s): **23/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	243

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for completed application for and the very detailed map of the village and its surrounds. There was no mention of any plan for the future and I would just reiterate what was stated in last years report that a plan would give focus to your work in the years ahead and help the village on many fronts.

That said the Committee of 12 is doing excellent work in maintaining the status quo and getting good cooperation from the local community in practical manner, such as church gate collections and efforts to maintain their individual properties to a high standard.

The Built Environment:

Quin has had a major influx of new residents in the last few years and this has resulted in major infrastructural changes to village. There are new residential and commercial developments both within the core and on the outskirts.

The type of new developments are very much in keeping with the original streetscape and the only concern that the adjudicator would voice is that too much of this type of "progress" will suffocate the uniqueness that Quin has.

I am sure that the planning authorities have taken due consideration of this potential problem.

There are a number excellent examples of new buildings that are in total unison with what already exists. Butlers new development on the Tulla Ennis Junction is excellent and the developers are to be congratulated in putting in place special features such as sash windows and stone door surrounds. It looks like the same contractors were responsible for the Court Yard development in the village proper.

The owners of the two storey refurbished and dashed house on the Tulla Road also should take a bow for the manner in which they have restored this premises.

Quinn Meats has a very appealing look to it and an appropriate name sign as well.

The Garda Station, sadly no longer lived in, was freshly painted. The Church and Grounds, and the National School on the Newline Road were all well preserved and credit is due to those that are responsible for their upkeep.

St Fineens Parochial House in excellent condition with nice front garden and right in the focal centre of what was a very busy place on a Friday evening.

There could be a problem with overall parking in the future as Quin expands and the County Council will have to address this sooner rather than later.

The Commercial Premises were a little mixed in terms of presentation, a few need to come into line with the rest of the village, even repainting will suffice in some cases.

To those that have endeavoured to maintain their properties, both commercial and private, in a proper fashion- well done.

Landscaping:

Quite a strong performance in this category especially in the core area of the village where communal and individual planting schemes gave the area a special appeal.

The Whole area around the grotto was a mix of shrubs, heathers and flowering annuals such as pansies and tuberous begonias.

The hanging basket and filled tubs on and adjacent to the bridge were a sight to behold and again well done to whoever is responsible for their upkeep.

The fountain area is also excellent and will be submitted for consideration under the landscape award.

The standard in outlying areas and in some housing developments such as Manor View was very good – low maintenance shrubs combining with annuals to give colour as well as foliage.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You state that your area is not suitable for the promotion of wildlife and I certainly cannot agree. Quinn to an outsider has a number of ideal havens for the development of a wildlife project no matter how small.

The bank of the River Rhine underneath Quin Bridge is one, it now has an access path along that bank.

This would be an opportune time to foster links with the National School to set about coming up with a suitable wildlife project that the children could take ownership of.

Litter Control:

There was too much rubbish to be seen at the MaCon Mara Commemoration Stone picnic area and also on the Road down to Quin Garden Estate.

It is important that school children and indeed adults as well be educated in good litter management.

Again here is another ideal opportunity to involve the National School in helping you to do this.

There were adequate bins for the present but with the flow of both local and visitor traffic these will not be sufficient.

Waste Minimisation:

Your application refers to interaction with FAS and local residents under this category.

In order to maximise your efforts you should consult the Race Against Waste publication and note the kind of initiatives that the Quinn could get involved in.

This will also help encourage the concept of better waste management amongst the local fraternity.

Tidiness:

There is still a major amount of construction work going on in the Village and in the environs.

This leads to messy site areas and developers should be encouraged to keep these as tidy as possible.

Outside of the above there is good will on the part of the local community to contribute by keeping areas immediate to their properties in good condition and free of weed growth.

Increased through put traffic does tend to make kerbsides messy so you will have to bear this in mind and get public representatives to ensure that the village has regular Council cleanups.

The one major problem for a village like Quinn, that attracts so many visitors to Quin Abbey, is the poor condition of roads, signs and poles. Approach your public representatives to have this problem rectified.

Residential Areas:

The pace and intensity of building that has happened in Quinn over the last few years has been commented upon in a previous section and unfortunately this, as was stated in last year's report, is a fact of life that many small villages have to contend with.

It has its plus points in that people make stronger communities and no doubt this will be the case in Quin. The new areas in the Village like Manor View with its well kept communal areas and raised beds (in need of rose feed to help develop). The Courtyard in the village and the new development in the New line road Ard na Mainistrachth were admired for their layout and design. The Arbutus Grove was in good condition but the Quin Gardens Estate was a little untidy principally because over grown common areas. A little effort here would make this a very nice development. Overall the standard was quite good.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Approach roads were well maintained from all entries and there are many. The internal link roads were acceptable if some what rough surfaced in parts. The condition of the both directional and name signs has been already alluded to in a previous section and these take away somewhat from the overall appearance.

General Impression:

Quin is a village that attracts large number of visitors each year to Quin Abbey, which is a National Monastic site. The village has grown significantly over the last few years and naturally that has the effect on the existing streetscape. The new developments have gelled and the Village has still uniqueness about it. Quin has the potential to do very well the Tidy Towns competition in the years ahead. The Committee is wished well for the future.