

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Quin** Ref: **85**
County: **Clare** Mark: **256**
Category: **A** Date(s): **20/08/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	256

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry and details of work on hand and your plans for the future. Your centre has had a long and successful association with the Tidy Towns Competition. You are now witnessing a change in character of the village not previously experienced which will present major challenges for you over the coming years. The residential rate of change will change the population significantly and this in turn will lead to calls for extra services and demands for increased traffic control and discipline. As a small committee your task is enormous and we suggest that you now canvass the residents from the new estates to boost your numbers and interest.

The Built Environment:

The long established buildings looked very well again this and the village continues to be dominated by your most important national monument Quin Abbey. We note the school is undergoing extension and refurbishment and no doubt this will continue to serve the needs of young students. The church continues to look well, although you consideration could be given to adding additional colour in view of all the stone in and around the village.

Landscaping:

You have worked very hard in this section and the collective and individual effort is acknowledged, especially your containers which looked wonderful on the day. Your many approach roads are quite demanding on your efforts and the Ennis approach in particular is excellent, with well kept grass margins, good floral display and attractive tree planting. Indeed the tree planting of previous years illustrates the great benefit of sustainable planting. Many hanging baskets are adding to you colour and your rose gardens give colour late into the season. The only negative point was that one of the standards outside the church is broken and needs replacement.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your landscaping projects have already added much to maintaining the wildlife in your area. However, you have great opportunity to raise your marks even further in this section by using a greater variety of planting, for example introducing fruit bearing species that will provide food for wildlife throughout the autumn.

Litter Control:

Litter does not seem to be a problem in Quin and in general the village was litter free. However there was a little at the picnic area from the Tulla approach. Your mark here is very good respectable and you have raised it a little.

Waste Minimisation:

We did not notice any bring bank unit: perhaps we missed. However, hearty congratulations to the school on securing the Green Flag status: an adjudicator's delight is to see a Green Flag and we commend all concerned for this achievement.

Tidiness:

Quin has the capacity to be a very tidy village indeed. However there are some problem areas which would need to be addressed in the coming years - pen spaces, some poorly finished residential developments, some side entrances needing painting and some rusty corrugated roofs. The doors on the equestrian centre could also do with improvement considering their prominent location. And as mentioned last year signage is in need of cleaning. Certainly nothing that cannot be resolved with the assistance of the local authority.

Residential Areas:

This is your area of greatest change. The many new estates. e.g., Manor View, Dún Na Manach, and Ard na Mainstreach illustrate the fast rate at which residential development is taking place. In many of these estates we notice there are many house unoccupied and wonder if they are second homes. The landscaping in some is minimalist and we would urge your committee to launch a programme aimed at getting residential action to improve the landscaping. Landscaping should be comprehensive and sustainable.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

In general road structure is good but signage as mentioned before is in need of improvement. You still have mileage versus metric and this should be standardised. We found car parking a bit sporadic and with little discipline. Some side and back entrances need improvement and these are now a core part of the adjudication system.

General Impression:

It is always a delight to visit Quin and view the many traditional features of the village. Your challenge now is to ensure this tradition is now preserved and that new developments blend in well with character of the village, aimed at integration rather than the creation of a small modern town. Appropriate planning is of paramount importance and design and layout should reflect the traditional ethos of this former monastic settlement. We wish you well for 2008.