

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Quin** Ref: **85**  
County: **Clare** Mark: **270**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **18/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	43
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	39
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>270</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you Quin Development for your entry on behalf of Quin village to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Welcome.

Thanks to your Committee of ten people involved in TidyTowns activities in Quin. You are all obviously dedicated community people who make the time and effort to attend about eight meetings per annum in addition to other TidyTowns activities. Your Committee and partner organisations are doing very worthwhile work for Quin, a village with a population of less than 1,000 people.

The work of local people, residents, business people, schoolchildren and others is to be praised. Well done on your energy and commitment. A recommendation is for the Committee to prepare a short three-year plan on TidyTowns activities to say 2011. As part of this plan and to help the town compare its performance in TidyTowns competitions, a recommendation to consider is a visit to other towns that are high performers in the 2007 and 2008 national competition. A further recommendation is to attempt to increase the number of people willing to serve on the TidyTowns Committee. Your present Committee of ten would benefit by the introduction of new members to help spread the workload and take on additional duties.

I wish you all the best with your Tidy Town activities into the future.

### **The Built Environment:**

One of the biggest challenges facing small villages like Quin is to manage change for the benefit of the residents and visitors alike. This change involves many organisations including the statutory and voluntary bodies. This is not an easy task and to date the village seems to be coping well.

Quin Abbey is a magnificent structure and the main attraction in the village.

Due to ongoing change there is a wide variety in the quality of the build environment in the village. Those buildings that impressed included: St Mary's Church and Grotto; St. Fineen's Parochial Hall (1940); The National School; Quincross; The Pharmacy; Village Inn; The Gallery Restaurant; The Abbey Tavern/Ardsolus Restaurant; The Post Office; Malachy's Bar. Well done.

The village pump outside the church is a nice feature.

There are some excellent individual houses and residential estates in the village with excellent landscaped areas and gardens on display. Well done to all.

### **Landscaping:**

On the Tulla Road entrance there is nice grassed area along the new residential estate, the stone walls and the mature trees along the road highlight these landscaped areas. The parking area, which allows visitors to view the Abbey, is of benefit. Across the road, the memorial stone for the McNamara clan gathering of 2002 to mark the 600th anniversary of the Quin Franciscan Abbey foundation, is an appropriate feature in the landscaped area.

The tree planting on the Ennis Road is worthwhile. There were some excellent displays of flowers, window boxes and hanging baskets at the Bridge, the Grotto, St. Fineen's Parochial Hall, and at many of the commercial premises. On the Tulla Road, the rustic picnic tables and benches opposite the parking area for the Abbey are an excellent feature and are set out in nice tree lined areas.

Well done on the landscaping at the individual houses on the outskirts of and in the town and at the residential estates, this is of a high standard. In general the residential housing estates are nicely landscaped and well maintained.

Well done to all involved in the various locations for good landscaping in the individual elements that help to make Quin look well. The residential areas also put so much effort into their own gardens and the result is mainly impressive.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

There was an absence of Wildlife Interpretative Signs and Display Panels. Perhaps I missed them. A suggestion might be to contact the Heritage Council and the Wildlife Ranger to assist in the establishment of further appropriate wildlife projects for Quin.

### **Litter Control:**

Quin was mainly clear of litter on the day of my visit. Well done on the involvement with the Youth Club on National Spring Clean Day. The regular sweeping of the village streets is of obvious benefit.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The purpose of this category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the local community to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Projects could include community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during clean-up events.

The further involvement of the school in these waste minimisation activities could be a priority.

### **Tidiness:**

In general, Quin looked tidy on the day of my visit. The residential areas deserve credit for their own areas of responsibility and for maintaining a tidy image for Quin. Some areas that need improvement; some buildings would benefit from painting their front of premises, including the stables, and the Credit Union. While the directional signs in the centre of the village are themselves a nice attraction, however these need to be well maintained and kept fresh with a coat of paint.

### **Residential Areas:**

The older townhouses help retain the small town character and rural charm of Quin and some of these are maintained to the best possible standards. Others require painting. Residential Estates looking well included; Cluain Gearain-new estate of detached houses, nice stone walls; Dun na Manach-nice estate with nice green area opposite; Manor View/Radharc Maneir-nice cul-de-sac of thirteen houses; and Ard na Mainistreach.

Some individual houses on the outskirts of the village are top quality with some lovely gardens.

Congratulations to all concerned on the upkeep of their residential areas.

Well done to all residents for the great effort.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The town was in general clean and tidy with some nice grassed landscaping which could be improved by further planted hanging baskets. The approach roads from Tulla and Ennis are in good condition and welcome the visitor. There are also nice grassed areas with trees and appropriate seating.

One suggested area of improvement for discussion and consideration in the medium to longer term is the removal of overhead wires from streets.

**General Impression:**

Congratulations to Quin on your 2008 entry to TidyTowns. Credit to your Committee and your partner organisations for your efforts on behalf of Quin. Much excellent work is ongoing in the village.

I look forward to further visits to your quiet village.