

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Quin** Ref: **85**  
County: **Clare** Mark: **280**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **19/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	44
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	39
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>280</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

We are pleased to welcome Quin Development Committee to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition and thank you for submitting your completed entry form, helpful map indicating projects undertaken and press cuttings.

Congratulations on succeeding to increase your committee to 17 members, this is an exceptional achievement for a village of Quin's size. We were particularly impressed by the fact that individual members are assigned responsibility for a category within Tidy Towns, this should ensure that Quin achieves a balanced performance in all areas, well done.

The fact that you hold weekly meetings between March and June, in addition to weekly litter picks and other activities during the summer, indicates a very serious commitment to raising Quin's performance within Tidy Towns and we are confident that you will be successful in achieving this aim. Your relationship with FAS, Clare County Council and The Mid Clare Way is commendable. Much can be achieved by working together and your enthusiasm has obviously encouraged local businesses to support your work, well done.

The various methods used to communicate with the wider community, including local press, Church notes and the public meeting are excellent. We particularly liked the idea of the Photography Competition, well done. We wish you every success with your new website but do remember that ongoing maintenance and updating will be vital. The proposed Young Tidy Towns Committee is a superb project and augurs well for the future of Tidy Towns in Quin for many years to come.

While you referred to your intention to ensure that Quin becomes a serious contender within the next 3 to 5 year, you did not submit any 3 or 5 year Plan. As recommended last year, we do suggest that you send a Plan, with deadlines/timeframes clearly identified, as this would help you to focus on key activities and gain additional marks.

### **The Built Environment:**

Quin has seen a considerable expansion of its population in recent years and it is a credit to all that the village has managed to retain its original charm and appeal while extending an invitation to all the new developments and resultant residents.

The Abbey is a superb monument to the monastic community who inhabited Quin and it still attracts many appreciative visitors to the village, hopefully the current caretaking difficulties will be overcome.

The National School was well presented with its Green Flag proudly displayed. The Church, very pretty Grotto, nearby village pump and immaculately presented St Fineen's Parochial Hall were admired. Other buildings which were noticed included Quin Meats, Quincross, The Abbey Tavern, Monks Well, Village Inn, Malachy's Bar, Mungovan's and Abbey Stores (where the lovely hanging baskets were being watered during our visit). The proposed Jumbo Chinese Restaurant building with its stone/brick front and window boxes was an attractive building however the intrusive banner should be removed as soon as possible. It was good to see that the cottage beside the bridge had been freshly painted. More recent commercial premises which also impressed were The Pharmacy and Zion Restaurant.

Your 3 phase programme of work on the Community Centre is an excellent project and will be of major benefit to the whole community, well done.

### **Landscaping:**

Throughout Quin we were impressed by the excellent landscaping. On the Ennis Road we admired the magnificent flowerbeds, welcoming Failte sign, and the neatly cut tree lined verges. The Viewing Area - with its picnic facilities, planted containers and established shrubs - provided an ideal spot to appreciate the wonderful Quin Abbey. It was encouraging to note that new trees have been planted at various locations.

On the Ballyhannon approach, many wonderful displays were viewed, including the pretty bedding plants beneath the bilingual sign; lovely displays at the residential estates; the planted containers and hanging baskets located at the Quincross junction. The bedding plants and built in bench seat in the wall opposite Malachy's Bar were attractive.

The new flowerbeds and the raised rose bed at the entrance wall to the Abbey were beautiful and the enchanting Fountain Garden was impeccably presented and very eye-catching. Hanging baskets on the bridge, outside the Church and at various locations around the village added wonderful splashes of colour.

Landscaping and planting at homes and commercial premises around the village complemented the public displays and together they created an excellent presentation, congratulations to all.

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

The contacts you have initiated with the County Ranger, Heritage Council, Irish Fisheries and the Department of the Environment indicate a serious commitment to make progress under this category so we applaud your efforts so far.

The riverside location should offer many opportunities for exciting wildlife/birdlife projects and the involvement of the local school in a survey is a great start. All the plans outlined in your Tidy Towns wildlife entry are very appropriate. We wish you well with the work and look forward to viewing some of the 'new residents' and the resultant information boards on a future visit.

### **Litter Control:**

Well done to all your volunteers involved in the Spring Cleanup, assisting in the clearout of Hassetts yard and in the weekly litter picks. It is particularly encouraging to note the involvement of the younger members of the community.

At the time of our visit the village was almost litter free – a couple of items were spotted in the area near the Water tower and near the path leading to Quin Abbey. In the case of the latter, the installation of a litterbin would probably help.

Litter bins throughout the village were coping well within their capacity but a dark blue litter bin near

Mungovan's missed out on your sanding/repainting programme and needed to be repainted.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Congratulations to the pupils and staff of the School on gaining their 3rd Green Flag, this is an excellent achievement and should provide inspiration and incentive to the rest of the community.

Your proposed community allotment project is a very exciting initiative and certainly should pay huge dividends for all involved, not just in the growing and selling of produce but in the enjoyment and camaraderie it will foster, we wish you every success with it.

Just a word of caution regarding the proposed Community Compost project - collective community composting is illegal without a licence so it would be important to consult the County Council for guidance. What is normally recommended is composting by individual households.

The new recycling facility near Malachy's was neat and tidy and should be a very useful amenity for everyone.

### **Tidiness:**

Signs around the villages were generally clean, clearly visible and in good condition

The wall at the entrance to Quin Abbey grounds was immaculately presented. Weeds were well under control throughout the village. We were pleased to note that political posters had been removed by the time of our visit but, as mentioned earlier, removal of inappropriate business signs would be recommended.

In general, work recommended in last year's report under this category seems to have been tackled, well done.

### **Residential Areas:**

Quin has a magical mix of long established village houses and more recent developments and individual homes which together create an enchanting ambience. The general standard of presentation and upkeep was very good but there were a few properties which needed some touch up.

It was good to see that most of the residential developments had prominently displayed name plaques but we did notice that the estate across the road from Maigh Dara didn't appear to have any identification.

Open areas within developments were generally well presented with attractive trees, well cut grass and neat flowerbeds or planted containers. Estates which caught our eye included Manor View with its bilingual sign and lovely rosebeds at the entrance; Dún na Manach with the pretty bedding plants at the roadside nearby. The use of stone walls at entrances to several developments was nice to see. We admired the lovely new play facility for the children at Cluain Gearrain. Arbutus Grove, an established development of bungalows, was well presented with a lovely tree lined verge and attractive shrubbery.

Some very attractive individual properties were admired throughout the village and we thought Clover Cottage, on the Ennis Road, was particularly cute with its hanging baskets, neat garden and village pump feature.

Congratulations to all who are lavishing great care and attention on the homes of Quin – you can be very proud of your endeavours, well done.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

All approach roads to the village were fairly well presented. The new pavement from the Viewing Area towards Cluain Gearrain was an excellent development and we wish you success in your lobbying efforts to get other pavement works completed.

It was good to note that you will be taking on board last year's recommendation to negotiate removal of overhead wires and we are confident that you will eventually succeed.

**General Impression:**

Your concerns, about access to Quin Abbey and also the need for additional parking facilities in the village, are justified and it is vital that both issues are resolved.

Quin village is certainly benefitting from the commitment and hard work of its Development Committee and its supportive bodies and volunteers. It was a pleasure to stroll through the village and appreciate the excellent progress that has taken place. Congratulations to everyone involved and we look forward to following your further progress over the next few years.