

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Quin**

Ref: **85**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **311**

Category: **C**

Date(s): **14/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	43	43
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	44	44
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	46	46
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	27	28
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	14	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	66	67
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	35
TOTAL MARK	450	306	311

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Quin is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your application form with map and additional information. Warm congratulations on the award of the bronze medal in 2015! Your map was very clear and, following comments in last year's adjudicator report, successfully identifies the locations of work done. This is excellent as the adjudicator particularly wants to visit these areas. Do try to keep your entry form as succinct as possible by listing projects under the relevant heading and avoiding duplication. Please refer back to the Tidy Towns Handbook which contains useful guidance in this regard. You have enjoyed a resurgence in recent years and this is most welcome. It is important to always be on the lookout for new blood and let everybody know that your doors are open to new faces and new ideas. You have a lot of events with popular support and it's great that your activities have such a social and fun aspect. You are commended for the many connections which you have made with local agencies and support groups. This will stand you in good stead into the future. Your connections with the school, and even the formation of the junior tidy towns group, is fantastic. Make sure that the flow of ideas is in both directions as the children will have their own ideas of what they would like for their village. Much of the project detail in this section would have been better placed elsewhere under the relevant headings.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

Well done on the progress with the credit union building. Try to take before and after photos and provide an update in 2017. The reroofing of the Abbey Tavern is an excellent project which will materially enhance the built environment. Other projects listed here would be better placed under other headings. Homes and businesses in Quin were looking very well on adjudication day and neatly presented facades were admired throughout. The ruins are a star attraction and the surrounds are very well-kept. It is unfortunate that a panel at the entrance has no information in this key location. Temporary steel barriers are unsightly, are there plans by the OPW to replace these with something more permanent? Heritage information (from Dúchas) is also clean and legible but faded and worn. The gates here would greatly benefit from painting. The Abbey tavern is looking very well but perhaps they could be encouraged to keep their front swept of cigarette ends. The school is exceptionally well presented and was proudly flying a green flag on adjudication day. The laundrette should be discouraged from blacking out its windows as this degrades the streetscape. There are many ways of drawing the eye into a window display in a person friendly way. On the day of adjudication the new heritage sign could not be located – perhaps it had yet to be installed.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Planting trees and shrubs for year round and wildlife benefit is nearly always better than annuals flowers so well done on your intervention for national tree week and at the playground. It is wonderful that you are raising all your own plants in a poly tunnel. You mentioned elsewhere that you are further reducing herbicide use so perhaps the

next step is to go 100% herbicide free. Is there really a need to use it at all given the environmental and human health concerns? Well done to all the homes and businesses in Quin which went to the trouble of hanging colourful displays of flowers. These make a real impact. The fountain and flowers overlooking the Abbey are pretty but again, probably overly ornate, detracting from the setting. The grotto is lower key and so works better. The picnic table in front of the new Tidy Towns plaque is too big for this location. The pump and surrounds are also attractive. The trees no longer needed their rubber supports (which may damage the trunks) and guards – these should be removed and reused.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

You clearly have an abundance of wildlife in your village and it is fantastic that you have a growing awareness of this. The adjudicator is looking for how this information is used to raise awareness among the community so that the natural heritage is cherished. Your bat walk with NPWS is an excellent way – how many people turned up? How about a similar event with Inland Fisheries Ireland about the fish life in your river? This is a fertile area for involvement by schoolchildren and there are myriad ways in which they could get involved. Best of luck to the school on their work towards the biodiversity green flag in 2017.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

Well done to the school on their involvement with the green schools initiative. Many of their projects are very applicable in homes and businesses so do make sure the ideas don't stop at the school gates. How does the Tidy Towns committee avoid waste from its own activities? Is there a dedicated committee member looking into this? Take a look at the 'circular economy' on the Internet for some ideas of how to 'think globally and act locally'. For more helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You have worked on a wide range of projects to enhance the appearance of your streets. It is admirable that you have helped in the renovation of Mungovan's shop in the spirit of community solidarity. Do detail under this heading any measures which are taken to ensure the town is litter free – rotas or the national spring clean etc. An empty pole on the corner near the pharmacy on the Ennis Road should be removed. Brown heritage signage is clean throughout but is looking tired, could these be renovated or replaced as part of a long-term plan? The town was generally very tidy and clean on adjudication day while litter control was to a very high standard. The bring centre at Malachy's bar was very clean, well done. The playground on the Sixmilebridge road was spotless, important at this vital asset.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

It's great that you have renovated disused buildings but do make sure that these areas are highlighted on your map. The many small residential areas in Quin were admired on adjudication day and all were presented to a very high standard. Clós na Manach has handsome stone pillars but bins are obscuring the name sign, could these be stored out of view? Loose cobblelock here will need repair. The Park and Cloisters is a fine enclave of homes with well maintained green areas. At Dún na Manach shrubs are very effective at the entrance but a dead tree should be removed. Roses at Manor view create a stunning effect.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

The approach from Ennis is characterised by the traditional stone walls and rural landscape which open onto an incredible view of the Abbey. The position of hanging baskets therefore is not only superfluous but actually detracts from this view. It is suggested that these be removed and a 'less is more' attitude adopted. Roses further along this stretch are a wonderful sight but don't be tempted to over prettify the landscape. New road surfacing was admired throughout and this enhances the streetscape. Small heritage features like the milestone on the Abbey Road are wonderful. The view of the Abbey from the viewing area is stunning but marred slightly by some discarded debris and litter. This would be a perfect spot for some heritage information. The new pedestrian crossing is a great safety addition to the town.

Concluding Remarks:

Quin is a remarkable village in a rural setting but with impressive built heritage. Attention to detail and planning are the key items for progressing further at this high level of the contest. Best of luck.