

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ABBHEY**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 04-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17
Landscaping	40	24
The Built Environment	40	21
Litter Control	40	24
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	17
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	156

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

You have not submitted details of a 3/5 year Plan. An overall programme of Development is highly recommended. Once the Plan is in place it is desirable to have specific yearly targets. Co-operation between your Committee, the local Council and other Agencies is essential. Your local Regional Tourism Officer will be delighted to offer advice and assistance.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The new format for this year's Tidy Towns Competition seeks information on the conservation of wildlife areas. May we suggest you make contact with the local Environmental Officer or some other competent person to advise you on the gathering of information on local animal and bird habitats and wild flowers. One project suggested is the planting of native berry producing trees and shrubs to provide bird food. Your natural amenities e.g. The Franciscan Monastery and Lady Well are of particular interest. Remember that in any development access for the disabled is essential. Abbey is greatly enhanced with its marvellous stone walls. The approaches both from Loughrea and Portumna are striking. Lady Well is a wonderful amenity and was very popular with visitors on the day of adjudication. It is presented most wonderfully. The area between Lady Well and the School with the stream running alongside is most interesting. Have you plans to develop this area? It could prove to be an ideal site for visitors and locals alike. Some trees, shrubs, and seating would provide an excellent amenity. The stream area could be cleaned. However, the area may not be suitable e.g. if it is bog!

LANDSCAPING

The Town Sign looked as it was being prepared for flower bedding. Have you considered a Welcome to Abbey Sign in stone? The area near the Church is most attractive with the combination of excellent stonework, shrubs and flowers. Similarly, the area where the flags were flying with the cross as a centre-piece was superb and most colourful. The Pump was brightly painted and made a lovely feature. The shrub planting and stone wall near the Telephone Kiosk is to be commended.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church was nicely painted and decorated. The Public Toilet block is a credit, attractively painted with floral decoration. The School was well presented and work was in progress at the rear of the building on Adjudication. The inside boundary wall would benefit from a coat of paint. Weeds, also inside the boundary wall detracted from the overall appearance. Holohans Lounge Bar, prominently sited, would be further enhanced by the addition of hanging baskets or other floral decoration. The Central Bar Smokey Joes was also bereft of any floral adornment. Lynchs has an attractive flower tub. The Community Centre looked very well and it was nice to see litter bins sited here. A derelict house on the Portumna approach is noted.

LITTER CONTROL

Very little sign of litter on the day of adjudication.

TIDINESS

Keep an eye on your open areas and ensure they are kept tidy. For example at the CAUTION CHILDREN sign, there is overgrowth. The tree planting at the open area beside Hynes Shop is excellent but the long grass spoils the effect.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

A key factor in the Adjudication Criteria is evidence that the whole community is involved in caring for the environment. The evidence of fine individual effort is there. But if every resident provided even ONE

hanging basket or window box the village would be transformed. Encouragement to paint homes and keep an eye on weed growth at boundary walls will be well rewarded. The house opposite the Church was beautifully presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The road surface has been recently completed and roads generally are up to a good standard. It seems a new footpath is being constructed beyond Lady Well. Keep an eye on approach roads as first impressions are important.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Abbey is a lovely village and much has been accomplished. You can be justly proud of your excellent stone restoration and construction. The area near the Church with the combination of stone walls, stone bridges, flowers and the lovely sound of flowing water in the stream is just excellent. Keep up the good work.