

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ABBEYFEALE**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 20-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16
Landscaping	40	18
The Built Environment	40	25
Litter Control	40	18
Tidiness	20	13
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	170

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Although you did not submit a three or five year work programme, you seem to have a very clear idea of what you would like to achieve in the future for your town. Your relationship and level of communication with Limerick County Council is to be commended. However, it is important (particularly in a town of Abbeyfeale's size) to have drawn up a report in order to highlight the town's strengths and weaknesses in order that you may concentrate on the problem areas and promote the town's strong points. Many thanks for your comprehensive responses to the questionnaire which was most helpful on adjudication day. Perhaps a more detailed map of the town could be submitted for next year's adjudication. Nine members on the committee seems quite a small number for a town of Abbeyfeale's population.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Perhaps the best approach to this issue of wildlife/natural amenities would be to contact local environmental groups and experts who could advise you and provide you with the information you need to tackle this broad-ranging issue. From there you can then identify the wildlife habitats of your area and see what varieties of animals, birds, fish and plantlife these attract. Involve the local schoolchildren in this project - they will hopefully bring a fresh enthusiasm for the wealth of wildlife in their locality.

LANDSCAPING

The standard in this category was quite weak. The monument/town square area looked quite desolate, and dominated by car parking. Some landscaping would soften the somewhat harsh impression created. The two graveyards in the town were very overgrown but could, with a little care, be very attractive. That graveyard with the lovely yew trees was particularly admired. The adjacent bare concrete block shed with the metal gate, looked quite unsightly. The graveyard beside Little Nero's brightly coloured restaurant was rather littered to the entrance area beyond the gates. The picnic area at the riverside area was very overgrown, and could, with effort, be developed to create a very attractive welcoming place.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both the commercial and public buildings of Abbeyfeale looked reasonably well presented on the day. The Convent and its boundary wall could be freshened up. The Church and grounds looked very well, and the garden of the Fire Station looked magnificent. The school on the Newcastle West road was well presented and the grounds were beautifully maintained. The small Garda Station looked well, as did the Telecom station. However, the library and Post Office could be freshened up before next year's competition. There was much evidence of industry on adjudication day. Work was going on beside Horan's fruit and vegetables, and the restoration of the stone work to the Abbey Veterinary Clinic was admired. The forecourt area to the Golden Vale mart looked rather desolate. There were a great many inappropriate plastic signs such as those to Frank Dennison's man's shop, Kathleens and Heffernan's foodstores which should be replaced with more sympathetic timber ones. Di's boutique and Andy Roche's should remove their curved canopies and replace with more traditional fabric awnings. Most shops looked very fresh and colourful. However, don't forget gable walls when considering overall presentation. AIB should freshen their bank building before next year. Quite a lot of dereliction was noted by the graveyard, and some temporary prefabs should be replaced with something of a more permanent nature. The town has a wealth of fine facades which would benefit from restoration, such as O'Connells which is sadly abandoned (with a couple of hanging baskets of dead flowers), and the attractive 1930's cinema. J.D. Daly's looked quite fresh and sported two lovely hanging baskets. However, the gates needed a fresh coat of paint. The Medical Hall was also quite fresh. J. Macks bar was fresh and cheerful, as was the Cellar in its very dominant position, with a display of old bottles in window. The Winner's Circle also looked very fresh. Anne's Diner had a magnificent floral display above its shop sign.

LITTER CONTROL

The first impression of the town was of a litter free one. However, closer inspection revealed quite a lot - along the stretch of road outside the Credit Union and to the space between the graveyard and its outbuilding.

TIDINESS

The general impression created by the town was a neat and tidy one. However, some minor issues would be: the abundance of unsightly projecting plastic signs; inappropriate curved canopies and windows cluttered with stickers to the supermarkets which created a bad impression. An untidy looking yard area to Sheehan's Hardware looked quite unsightly, and should, if possible be screened from public view.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses and gardens of Abbeyfeale looked very well on adjudication day. Woodview B&B was attractively presented with a magnificent garden. A house was under construction on the Killarney road - the adjacent house had a enchanting garden and hedge. The houses on New Street looked very fresh. Ardán Naomh Ide looked well with an attractively maintained green area to the front. However, the entrance area could have been presented to a higher standard. The cottages on the terrace had been freshly painted and there were some beautiful gardens further out on the Newcastle west road.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The roads and streets of the town were presented to a high standard also. An untidy looking empty site on the Killarney road beside Herlihy's Service station was quite overgrown and created a bad impression.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The town of Abbeyfeale was well presented on a sunny June adjudication day. It is important to formulate a clear plan of campaign for tackling the problem areas of the town.