

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **ABBEY**  
County : **GALWAY**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20	20
The Built Environment	40	22	21
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	26	24
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	17	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	17
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>156</b>

## **Abbey, County Galway**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for completing the entry form and also for your work plan. You have set yourselves realistic targets, a limited number which are achievable each year is far more likely to yield results. It would appear that there is a great community involvement in the presentation of Abbey and you seem to be very proud of your village. There is a lot of history in Abbey and I am sure that it must attract many tourists. It is indeed a delightful place to visit.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The Church and the school are both presented to a high standard, but the side entrance gate to the Church should be painted. Holohans looks well, as did the Central Bar and Community Centre. Hanging baskets, window boxes flower tubs all greatly enhance a town or village and add a great splash of colour to an area. I can well believe that Abbey looks as good in winter as it does in summer.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Abbey is a most attractive village and the landscape surrounding it looks very well. Trees are the most important plants in the urban landscape. The siting of ornamental trees in towns and villages is a key aspect. Each tree should have a purpose. The shrubs and flower tubs look very nice. The open space in the centre of the village is delightful. The street furniture and the picnic benches are a credit to everybody involved. I think it would be fantastic if the Abbey was floodlit.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

I am delighted to read about your plans to attract wildlife into the area. There is a lot of help out there so be sure to avail of it. Properly managed natural areas and wildlife will add greatly to the area you are presenting. You will enjoy discovering more about your environment and your activities will ensure that nature and wildlife will continue to have a place in your community. It is an excellent idea to involve the children in this project. The stream running through is a lovely natural amenity and is well presented.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

You do not appear to have a significant problem with litter. The village was reasonably free of litter on adjudication day. You have a good supply of litter bins in place. Again you are to be commended for the way you involve the children in this project.

### **TIDINESS**

The toilet block is presented to a very high standard. While it is a bit unusual to have public toilets in a village the size of Abbey, it is a good facility to have for visitors. Whoever is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of this facility is to be complimented.

The graveyard is neat and tidy looking. Also, the pump area looks good.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

It is evident that all house owners are really doing their bit to present their homes to a very high standard. The houses on the approach and in the village look very well. I saw some lovely manicured well presented gardens.

### **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The approach roads are well cut back and well presented. It is obvious that you have good co-operation with the relevant organisations. Lady's Well area on the approach into the village looks really nice, again as suggested you should consider erecting a nice "Welcome to Abbey" sign using material that would blend in with the landscape.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

I enjoyed my visit to your lovely village. The launch of your two books will help to highlight Abbey and bring more tourist into the area. It is evident that you are a community caring for the environment. I look forward to a return visit and may I wish you continued success in the competition.