

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ABBAYFEALE**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	27
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	18	18
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	19	18
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	172	170

Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the detailed responses to the questionnaire which was very much appreciated by the adjudicator. The number involved in the Tidy Towns committee is quite small given the size of Abbeyfeale and it is important that all sections play a part in helping the town to progress in the competition in the years to come. I would suggest that the committee try to expand the number of members by inviting representatives of other organisations on board and then interact with Limerick County Council and FAS with a view to putting together a 3/5 year work plan. A town of Abbeyfeales size would definitely benefit from a structured work plan.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Overall the standard of presentation in this category was quite good for a town of the size of Abbeyfeale. The Church was in very good condition as was the convent and its grounds. The Ceard Scoil was extremely well presented with beautiful gardens. The Garda Station also looked well as did the Telecom building. On the commercial side it is good to see Leens Hotel fully refurbished and restored to its former glory. The AIB bank is a very impressive structure but like a number of similar buildings it is need of a complete refurbishment. Little Neros, after allowing for a garish looking sign, was well presented. Both Jack O' Rourke's Bookies and Bar, with the unique horse's head sculpture, was very eye-catching. Similarly The Cellar with its lovely colour combination of yellow/black/red is a much admired building. The Public Toilets were in reasonable condition. It is important that a building like this is constantly maintained and kept fresh, unfortunately there was a strong stench on adjudication day. Super Save, The Little Rascal and Greyhound and Pet World deserve praise for the standard of presentation. Unfortunately, there are a number of negatives which need to be addressed simply because they are taking away from the efforts of others. The Old Cinema and Tobin's on Church Street are very derelict and have been for some time. The committee should approach the owners in a diplomatic manner to see if the problem can be resolved. Alas, the statue of Fr Casey is in need of cleaning; it is a focal point in the town, synonymous with Abbeyfeale's past.

LANDSCAPING

As was the case last year the standard in this category was quite weak with very limited planting to be seen in the main town area. The riverside area was not terribly well presented and indeed was slightly overgrown. Rather than dwell on a list of negatives I think it is in the interest of the committee to seek the help of Limerick County Council and FAS to help them initiate a landscaping programme that could be implemented over a period of three years. It is in a situation such as this that the need for a structured plan is most obvious.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Again this is a sector that could be improved upon. There is immense potential for greater nature conservation in the Town and its environs. As part of a 3 year plan the advice of local environmentalists should be sought and a project involving both primary and post primary pupils be put in place. Why not start by identifying wildlife habitats in and around the town and determine what animals, birds, insects and fish exist therein.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard in this category was acceptable but there were still too many wrappers and soft drinks cans evident around the town. The town square was a little messy and needs to be constantly monitored as it generates the most traffic. There was also some litter to be seen on Church Street; again better litter control is required here.

TIDINESS

First impressions were a little deceptive because on closer examination there was evidence of kerbside weeds, and weeds at a number of boundary walls, notably at Teach Na Feile which looked a little forlorn. There is a need to ensure regular weeding especially at kerbsides.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The private residences in the town and in the outskirts were on the whole very well maintained and presented. There were a number of very impressive residences as one approached from both Killarney and Newcastle West. Ardan Ide, as was the case in other years, was in top condition; congratulations to all concerned.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Killarney Road was impressive with verges cut back and some very pleasant private residences. On the minus side there were some untidy areas most notably near Tedcastles. An unsightly fence on the left as one approaches the town from this end could be tidied up prior to next year's competition. The Newcastle West entrance was very well presented, with the Industrial Estate deserving special mention for the way it is maintained.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The Committee which is small in number is trying very hard to achieve improvement in the competition. As suggested elsewhere it is imperative that the committee be expanded to embrace other sections of the community. This can only be beneficial to Abbeyfeale a town which has the potential to do very well in future competitions.