

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ABBEYSHRULE**
County : **LONGFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	35
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	202	198

Abbeyshrule, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the plan and the map of the village. The plan tends to have set out work that has been completed rather than work/projects that hope to be completed. The plan is intended to set out clearly in the mind of the community the undertaking and direction of the Tidy Town Committee over the following 3/5 years. Greater detail is required in several areas including wildlife eg. how will the effort be made to create a bountiful habitat? An idea could be to ask each resident in the village to submit their ideas and then take the best and most feasible from the submissions.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The graveyard was well kept, though the railings needed a coat of paint and some weeds needed to be removed from the walls. The bridge over the river is well kept and had no weeds at all. The Church was well presented as was the Pitch and Putt Course. The garage/factory on the Ratharney road was reasonable though there are still some weeds in the forecourt area. Stone walls feature nicely throughout the village. The long grassy area should be cut outside the Longford Regional Water Supply Offices even though it is a small distance outside the village. The new stone wall on the Colehill Road looks well. When it has been weathered a while and has some vegetation growth such as liverworts it will look even better and blend in with the environment. The canal and slipway look well. The Abbey is a valued aspect of heritage in Abbeyshrule. It is good to hear that the survey has been completed. Preservation of the Abbey is of great importance. Rooney's pub on the corner was simple in presentation.

LANDSCAPING

The village featured a number of newly planted trees. Some of them looked as though they were just surviving. Take care to maintain the trees, planting them at the right time of year and feeding and watering them when required. Dead trees should also be removed (large tree out the Ratharney road). Hanging baskets also featured with some lovely baskets on the "Rustic Inn". A problem also existed with some of the flower planting, probably due to late planting or the unseasonal weather. The floral displays in some areas was not as good as it should have been. One or two colour/species displays could be considered to make a better impact. A great deal more could be made of the stretch of canal through the village. Plans for a linear walk between the two bridges is welcome.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Take care of the canal - it looks a bit weedy in places. It is however a great asset for the village. A survey should be carried out by the community to ascertain and assess the fauna and flora of the canal - there are a number of good books on the subject. Display boards tastefully erected either in the village or closer to the canal would be of benefit to visitors and residents alike. It

was noted that some Buddleia was in bloom - this is a plant that attract butterflies. Other species that attracts insects such as bees and butterflies or provide a food source for animals should be encouraged.

LITTER CONTROL

Only one piece of litter was spotted on the day of adjudication - well done. Litter bins were well maintained though it would be suggested that a couple of additional bins could be required.

TIDINESS

This category was good - although increased cutting back of hedges and some grassy areas was required. Attention needs to be paid to weedy areas around the base of trees.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses in general were well presented with some lovely planting. The house opposite the "Rustic Inn" looked well as did a number on the Colehill Road. An interesting wooden house located on the Ratharney road which though looked new, had contributed to the colour with a floral display.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There is a lovely sweep of trees into Abbeyshrule from the Ballymahon direction. The sign was a bit lopsided. The Ratharney road is well cut back and the grassy area must take a lot of effort to keep short. Areas of wild meadow could be considered here if wished. Management of these would be necessary to contain them and encourage wildflowers though it would need less cutting. Shrub and tree planting on the Colehill road looks well. It is nice to note that one species of tree was used as a bank rather than a variety of trees. The yield sign on the bog road requires replacing.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village of Abbeyshrule was well presented on the day of adjudication. It has a number of great attractions and these should be developed and preserved sensitively. Well done on your work in the past year. The use of Irish is encouraged and this should be remembered when erecting signs/boards.