

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 20-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	21	20
The Built Environment	40	22	22
Landscaping	40	27	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	18
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	171	164

Abbey, County Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

This adjudicator had not been in Abbey before, and was greatly taken by the natural charm of the village and also by the fine work which is enhancing that charm. Next year please be sure to mark on your map sites where improvements have been made in the last twelve months or where improvements are in progress - we are unlikely to miss anything, but wish to be sure. Please also mark all obvious landmarks - e.g. the Church.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The only remarkable building of architectural interest - apart from the ruined Abbey - is the Church, and it is beautifully looked after, as usual. The School is well maintained too. Painting or whitewashing the well-built sheds opposite Lynch's would make an enormous difference to this area. The building at the back of the Central Bar could be upgraded to advantage. The boarded-up building opposite the Community Hall is quite decent.

LANDSCAPING

Your tree-planting programme has been very favourably noted. Incidental show and flower planting throughout the village is most pleasing. The half-moon shaped gardens opposite the church is judiciously sited and the plants well chosen - this makes a charming and colourful centrepiece to the village. This adjudicator was particularly impressed by the neat paths and trim lawns in the Abbey graveyard - a difficult place to keep tidy; an appropriate air of reverence and repose has been sustained - it is a place where one feels the desire to linger. While not strictly-speaking 'Landscaping', it will be put forward for consideration under the Landscape Award category.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The remarks of last year's adjudicator remain appropriate. It is important to continue involving schoolgoers in wildlife projects.

LITTER CONTROL

There was little appreciable litter in Abbey on adjudication day, in spite of a large crowd attending a wedding.

TIDINESS

Abbey is undoubtedly a tidy village. Watch in particular for kerbside weed. The car park near the Abbey was not entirely tidy on adjudication day, and the field near the Central Bar was weed-infested - desirable neither from an agricultural nor a visual

point of view.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

All of Abbey is residential. Houses are well kept, and those with gardens add to the general appearance of well-being.

ROADS, STREETS ND BACK AREAS

A feature of Abbey is the way in which spaces open attractively off one another: do not ever let this be tampered with. It is a different matter widening approach roads, and this work seems to be going on well. Verges are kept trim - there is still space for even more tree-planting. The building of stone walls is a most eye-catching and commendable project at present.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A village replete with history and a sense of its past, planning confidently for a bright future.