

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	20	19
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	22	19
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>175</b>

## **Abbeyfeale, County Limerick**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for returning completed entry form. There is no evidence that you are working to an agreed 3-5 year plan. This is important for a town the size of Abbeyfeale that is changing in line with other towns throughout the region. You have similar problems to other towns in terms of parking and the continuous traffic through the town is causing great wear and tear on its fabric. In some cases cars are parking on the footpath and the poor parking discipline in the square is not helping. The town has a welcome number of attractive buildings both public and private, many with superb traditional features that are worthy of improved presentation. Could we suggest that you organise a survey of the town that will lead to a working plan. Such a plan would chart a way forward over the next few years and give your committee a vision to pursue.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Public buildings were well presented and many have fine landscaped surrounds. The flying of flags at Scoil Mhuire is commendable. One of your strong points is the great number of traditional type shopfronts within the town and some of the new ones are praiseworthy also. The Mann's Emerald Food Hall is a welcome deviation from the normal supermarket facade and blends in well in this street - don't spoil it with too many coloured signs. Other buildings that look well include a Touch of Elegance, McElligotts Pharmacy, The Cellar, and Jack O' Rourke's Bar.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The shubbery at the street entrance beside the church is excellent. The park at the Allaghan River bank is quite attractive. Some of the seating here now needs attention. The Golden Vale surrounds are a let down and should be improved. As mentioned last year the Fr. Casey monument is not receiving the acclaim it deserves. The Committee should now consider moving this fine monument to a new location - possibly in a new park and renew the inscription at the bottom of the sculpture which is illegible. The town would benefit from a tree planting blitz - would you consider such a project for the first year of the Millennium

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

You have potential for improved wildlife promotion near the river. Perhaps one of the schools would tackle such a project and list the area's wildlife. This could be followed by erecting a display board at the riverside park.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

For a town of its size the litter control is very good, with no obvious black spots. In particular, the main streets were free from litter, save a couple of short stretch areas.

## **TIDINESS**

Your problems refer to several unattended open spaces that are overgrown and give an image of untidiness. Builders of premises should be encouraged to finish developments well and remove unwanted rubble.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

You have scored well again in this area and many estates have some excellently kept houses with attractive gardens. Within the town many premises seem to give little attention to the upper storey, which suggests they are unoccupied. The ribbon development of previous years has not helped the continuity of the town's core and there are many gaps between houses that need attention.

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

The heavy traffic is damaging many of the footpaths. Side and rear entrances are now a core part of the competition and business people should be encouraged to present the areas to a high standard. Long term you should aim to place the E.S.B. and Telecom wires underground. This would improve the street-scape significantly. In general the road surface is good and well maintained. The Industrial Estate looked well again this year, though employees are parking cars on the footpaths, while there are vacant spaces in the car park provided.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

You have maintained your standard and increased a little. You need an action plan for future years. In particular you need good community support. Small Committees should not be expected to cater for a centre the size of Abbeyfeale. Well done and good luck for the future.