

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ABBEYLARA**
County : **LONGFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	27
The Built Environment	40	21	21
Landscaping	40	20	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	16	17
Tidiness	20	10	11
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	17	17
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	153	153

Abbeylara, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your application, comments and information. A short synopsis of work that has been carried out and points being considered for future development would be useful. There seems to be good co-operation between the school and the committee and good maintenance work is evident.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The school has some fine window boxes (wooden) and bird tables. Do they attract birds, do you leave out scraps of left over lunches and what species have you seen? The weedy parking area on Castlepollard road could be cordoned off. The church is well painted and a good access ramp was noticed. MacNicholls(unused shop) was well presented. Farrells looked a bit cluttered and more traditional signage could be considered when time comes for replacement/refurbishment. McCormacks Pub has a traditional presentation. The refurbished handball court is also a great asset – do many people in the village still play handball?

LANDSCAPING

Incidental landscaping throughout the village looks well. It should be always kept in mind that native species tend to integrate better into a small village such as Abbeylara.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The stream through the village is a wonderful amenity and the seating and access to it, is to be commended. The area behind Farrells shop also has great potential and clearing has been taking place. What plans for further development do you have for this area?

LITTER CONTROL

The litterbins with Irish signage look well and the others around the village were well used. There was a tremendous amount of litter again down at the stream behind Farrell's shop, on the way to the graveyard and in the well, which was a pity. Tackling this litter problem should be of prime importance as it detracts considerably from the other good work carried out in the village.

TIDINESS

The long grass, broken walls (Edgeworthstown road) and weedy areas detracted from the overall tidiness. Litter is as

well a big problem. A daily cleanup focusing on the litter black spots is required.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Houses along the main street were reasonable, though on certain house windows, railings and walls all needed repainting. Broken fencing and dirty fencing on the Coole road detracted from otherwise nicely presented houses.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach road from Ballywillian was not kept well with long grass and weeds at the base of the stone wall. However, do not strip vegetation off stone walls but manage what species grow. The Coole approach was reasonable, though grass still needs to be trimmed back, though only at the edges further out.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Abbeylara is fortunate to be a fine village with a number of important features. Well done on completing the guiding course. It will give you an insight into the heritage of the area. A cultural/heritage teashop sounds like an interesting idea – do some market research though first to ensure that you provide what the visitor wants and how to market such premises. Visit other similar attractions for ideas e.g. Heartys Teashop, Mullaghbawn, S. Armagh is a good example of a successful teashop though this has expanded over time.