

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	210	207

Abbeyshrule, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

This is a very historic village and its situation is very pleasant. Thank you for the information on developments and on the sewage scheme which had not commenced by the day of judging. Thank you also for your development plan. While most of the suggestions are commendable, painting the factory iron shed façade pastel lime green, mauve or yellow might not be particularly appealing. It is good to have such an important Summer School celebrating the work of Oliver Goldsmith. Well done on the work carried out in the past year.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The built environment in the village is well presented. The churchyard looks very well. The Abbeyshrule Inn was newly painted – however the judges would suggest different colour hanging baskets in future – orange wall colour and violet flowers do not complement each other. Imagine the cascading colours of nasturtiums with white petunias or orange/brick colour geraniums? The Factory on the Ratharny road is reasonable though part of it will need a coat of paint next year.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping on the canal looks well near the bridge in the village, notably the pale pink roses and the dark purple buddleia. A lot of work was being carried out in the canal area. Plants on the walls on the Colehill road would be more beneficial if they were more perennial in nature. The landscaping opposite the factory is not really working due to the sloping ground. This may seem harsh, but perhaps simple grassing over would be more suitable and the plants could be used elsewhere. Even if you were not to use the plastic, trying to weed the area would be difficult. Take care not to overlandscape the canal out from the village. If you do, use native plants/shrubs only so as to integrate into surrounding countryside. The grates around the trees were being freshly painted. One of the pumps had disappeared and the area was a bit weedy. The other pump was simply presented. There is a part with a small thatched house, some tree and bog oak sculpture. There is no indication as to its access or whether one can picnic or not.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

With the canal and River running through the village, the village has great potential to draw an awareness of aquatic wildlife. There were many baby coots on the canal. Identification and assessment of the habitats should take

place and management schemes set out. Contact your local wildlife officer.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter had to be searched for and what better place to find it than lodged in the reeds on the canal where a few cans were found. Litterbins were in evidence though one at the junction of Colehill road required repainting.

TIDINESS

The village is very tidy, particularly the back of the canal and the approach roads. Well done to those involved as the village is long and there are not a great number of residents.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are some pleasant houses in Abbeyshrule. The landscaping for the wooden house looks well and time will see this maturing making a good impact. As the village is small, each residence is important to its overall appearance.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approaches have really been focused on and were all well cut back. There is a good approach from Ballymahon and the Colehill road was neat and tidy in appearance with ferns being allowed grow through the ditches. The road surface will need attention in the future and it is good to note that this is being addressed. The Ratharney road is well cut back along way out. Well done on the work carried out.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village is a most pleasant place. Your Millennium project sounds interesting – floodlighting of the canal might however disturb the natural habitat – seek advise from your local wildlife officer. Well done on work carried out this year. Marks are difficult to achieve at this level of the competition so each one awarded indicates a great deal of work and effort.