

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **MAYO ABBEY**  
County : **MAYO**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	20
The Built Environment	40	22	20
Landscaping	40	26	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	10
Litter Control	40	19	19
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	21
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>146</b>

## **Mayo Abbey, County Mayo**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

On entering Mayo Abbey from the Balla road, it is a pleasure to note the nicely landscaped roadside verge with its mature shrubs and trees and to experience the gentle curve of the road leading one into the heart of the village with its fine old stone buildings. It is a bit of a disappointment, however, to see the storage yards across from Sheehans pub and the old building adjoining the gates here. Sheehans pub itself, or course, could be painted on its roadside façade to freshen its appearance, although it should be noted that its adjacent car park with its landscaped areas look fine. The entrance from the opposite approach road is more dramatic as one is led into the village with fine stone walls and the village buildings, many of which are stone. The view of the graveyard and old stone abbey give the traveller the sense of stepping back in time. Mayo Abbey is welcome to the 1999 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed application. It is good to note the full financial and practical support the committee receives from the parish and that you liaise with Mayo County Council and the ESB. Perhaps you might consider publishing a brochure or leaflet on your archeological sites together with the historical significance of Mayo Abbey.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The school is well presented as are most properties. A barn type building to the rear of a property opposite the school might be repainted and a number of lock-up properties either cleaned or painted. The Post Office looks well; the old style telephone kiosk here could be refurbished. Well done on the rebuilding of stone walls and the restoration of old buildings. The new church is attractive and its landscaped area to the roadside was much admired.

### **LANDSCAPING**

A display of shrubs of seasonal interest might be featured at the shrine to Our Lady. Grassed areas are being nicely maintained and trees are maturing well. The road junction from the church should now be landscaped and might feature a sculpture piece. The service pole will of course have to be removed.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The graveyard is presented to a very high standard. Landscaping on the road leading up to the Abbey Sports Grounds is very attractive also. A suitable wildlife project should be identified and undertaken. There are guidelines on these in your Tidy Towns Handbook which you will have

received by now.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Some litter was noted across from Stephen's pub and along the roadsides from the school leading out towards the Claremorris end of the village. No litter bins were seen during adjudication although your application suggests that these had been put in place together with bench type seating.

### **TIDINESS**

The overall appearance of the village was one of tidiness, however some yards and outbuildings could have looked better.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Residential properties are presented to a very high standard, particularly those across from the nicely landscaped area near the car park. The fine stands of Montebretia to the roadside of the boundary walls of a residential property at the Claremorris end of the village make a very nice introduction to Mayo Abbey from this approach road.

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

The council should be approached to provide finger boards / direction signs from the surrounding countryside, particularly from Ballintubber Abbey. The village is very difficult to find and is not officially signposted at all although two DIY signposts near Ballintubber Abbey were noted. The entrance to the village past the graveyard is quite spectacular with the old church and graveyard in the foreground and the magnificence of Croagh Patrick in the background. Work in progress was noted to a stone wall at one entrance to the village. More of the stone walls leading into the village might be cleared of long grass and highlighted as an attractive feature. Where possible stone work could be refurbished.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The overall appearance of Mayo Abbey is very favourable. The substantial increase in this year's marks reflects work accomplished since 1998. Well done!