

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 18-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	25
The Built Environment	40	22	22
Landscaping	40	28	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	10
Litter Control	40	22	19
Tidiness	20	12	10
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>157</b>

## **Mayo Abbey, County Mayo**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Mayo Abbey is a village that is steeped in history with its old church at the top of village, graveyard, Abbey and famine church. Perhaps as suggested in last year's report you could consider a pamphlet on the villages obviously fascinating history. The adjudicator was pleased to note the level of enthusiasm within the village especially amongst your newer residents.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There is a wealth of stone walling throughout the village and along approach roads. Stephen's Pub has fine traditional features including its plasterwork and original sash windows at first floor level. Empty window boxes were sitting outside – presumably they have yet to be filled. Do try to screen the yard area more successfully from public view. The re-pointed stone shed opposite the pub was admired. The old famine church is a fine asset to the village. The statue of Our Lady in the church car park will need to be repainted before next year's competition. The church itself was fine but again will need a fresh coat of paint – the attractive raised stone landscaped beds to the front were greatly admired. The adjudicator was pleased to note that the new community centre is virtually complete. The entry gates to the graveyard appeared to have arrived and been put in place on adjudication day. The school was fine although the railings could be painted before next year.

### **LANDSCAPING**

This is an aspect of the competition in which you obviously excel. The landscaped area adjacent to the road to the GAA grounds looked quite magnificent – do remove the timber post and chain fence as this detracts somewhat from the visual impression created by this area. The green area adjacent to Stephen's Pub car park looked well although the dead grass at the edges should be trimmed back. The landscaped area at the Post Office corner had yet to be completed on the day.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Mayo Abbey is indeed fortunate in this aspect of the competition with its wealth of mature trees and gardens. The adjudicator noted a swallows' nest at the eaves of the church. Try to get the local school children involved in putting together a wildlife map of the indigenous habitats of the area perhaps in conjunction with that of the village's history.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The standard of litter control on the day was very good. However, a couple of problem areas were to Stephen's Pub car park and the adjacent landscaped area by the picnic table. Even a small amount of litter is all the more apparent in a village of Mayo Abbey's size.

## **TIDINESS**

Do try to more successfully screen storage areas from public view i.e. that to Stephen's Pub and the yard area opposite which is quite visible with its piles of timber pallets as one comes down from famine church. The graveyard appeared quite weedy and would benefit from some attention. The traditional gabled shed with its steps leading up to a door at first floor level opposite the church should be restored to its former glory as it is a marvellous example of its type.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The small number of houses both in the village itself and along approach roads looked well on adjudication day. It was noted that construction work was taking place on new premises. Do try to ensure that these retain the village's character. One house with a magnificent garden including an archway of climbing roses on the Ballyglass Road was greatly admired.

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

The standard in this aspect of the competition was quite good. The Balla Road was fine. It was noted that a new stone wall was in progress on the day and the daisies to the hedgerows were admired. The attractive montbretia on the Claremorris entrance should be quite spectacular when they come into bloom. This road affords the traveller a magnificent view to the church beyond. The traditional square sign was greatly admired but do paint it up before next year's competition. Perhaps more village nameplates could be put in place along approach roads to give the visitor a sense of arrival.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The attractive and unusual village of Mayo Abbey was a wonderful experience for this adjudicator on their my visit. As mentioned in last year's report it is rather like stepping back in time!