

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Abbey**

Ref: **42**

County: **Galway**

Mark: **248**

Category: **B**

Date: **28/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	41
The Built Environment	40	30	28
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	37	36
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	31
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	248	240

Overall Developmental Approach:

Abbey is a very attractive village, and immediately looks very well cared for. You are making the most of amenities such as the riverbank and green areas, and the Carthusian Monastery is very well presented. It is very good to see the community's total co-operation with local and State organisations, and national school children. It is also good to see that you are following a 5 year plan as this gives you a clear focus for your activities, and the plan itself was very well presented.

The Built Environment:

The buildings in Abbey looked very well on the day of adjudication. The Community Centre and boundary walls were nicely painted, and the tennis court beside it looked very smart with new fencing and green poles. Perhaps the corrugated roof on the Community Centre could be repainted or replaced? Business premises such as Holohans and Smokey Joes Pub looked well as did their adjoining areas - the stone wall beside Smokey Joes was impressive, and the yard wall to the back of Holohans was painted in the same colours as the main building. The Church looked well and the Grotto at Lady Well was freshly painted. The only exception was the derelict house beside the National School which I understand you plan to repair. The gates at this house were painted, but perhaps you could start by clearing some of the overgrown garden. All gates in the village seemed to be freshly painted green and gave a good co-ordinated impression. The school also looked well, and it was good to see their Green flag on display outside. Some sheds opposite the weighing scales could do with some attention as they take away from the appearance of the approach from the

Lacken Cemetery road.

Landscaping:

The landscaping on all approach roads was very good and visitors to the village town are greeted with a burst of colour - yellow and red rose beds, and multi-coloured flowers.

The riverbank was very well landscaped with attractive flower beds and young trees which will look really beautiful in a few years. It is obvious that a lot of work has gone into the landscaping at Finnegans Garden. The village green was very well kept and landscaped, and the pump and picnic benches added to the overall effect.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The most prominent natural amenity in Abbey is the river, and the flowerbeds and general landscaping certainly enhance it. The addition of bird-boxes at the riverbank is a good idea - perhaps the local schoolchildren could carry out a survey on the type of birds they are attracting?

Litter Control:

There was practically no litter evident in Abbey on the day of adjudication. Congratulations to the school on its green flag status - it is good to see young people so involved at an early age.

Tidiness:

Abbey was very tidy and it is obvious that everyone in the community is making an effort to keep their village neat and tidy.

Residential Areas:

The new housing estate at Eagle Hill looked very well with brightly coloured flowers and fencing at the entrance to the estate. However, the name of the estate on the stone sign was obscured by flowers and there were some weeds on the footpath inside the estate. Houses on the approach roads to Abbey were also well cared for. In particular, the house on the elevated site on the left hand side as you enter Abbey from Portumna is worth a special mention because of the excellent flowerbeds and landscaping.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The newly resurfaced road to Woodford/Lacken cemetery looked well, and the good surface was complemented by the new lighting and the white poles and chains at the roadside. The weighing scales are an interesting feature and would benefit from the removal of the corrugated roof if possible. However, the road surface at the junction of the Gort/Duniry roads by Hynes house could do with attention. The footpath by the school and Lady Well was very well kept. The approach to the Eagle Hill estate looked well - the verges were well cut, the stone wall and fencing were in very good repair, and the painted green gates complemented the overall effect. However, perhaps the verges would benefit from re-surfacing.

General Impression:

It is obvious that the entire community of Abbey is committed to making the village look its very best. Perhaps an information sign at the car park and better signage of the public toilets would encourage passers-by to stop and enjoy the village.

Second Round Adjudication:

Again Abbey looked most picturesque on our second visit. The novel approach to the river is most effective. Fresh paint was much in evidence. The combination of stone walls, neat grass and flowers all combine to demonstrate the obvious pride the community has in its village. The Church was exceptionally neatly presented and the grave yard grass was being cut during adjudication. A few isolated pieces of litter were evident this time. You must now concentrate on the several expansive yards and outbuildings which clearly are not up to standard. We look forward to returning next year.