

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Abbeyshrule**

Ref: **319**

County: **Longford**

Mark: **242**

Category: **A**

Date: **01/04/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	20
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	242	237

Overall Developmental Approach:

Abbeyshrule is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2004. Thank you for your submission which included your plan and additional supporting information, your map was useful also, the overall presentation of your submission is excellent. The village is located on the banks of the Royal Canal and features handsome stone walls, bridges and winding roads which add greatly to its character and charm. The Cistercian Abbey is a testament to your rich cultural heritage. Your development strategy with its emphasis on your two natural amenities, the Royal Canal and the River Inny together with the Cistercian Abbey is appropriate. The village is poised for further amenity development which should have a long lasting positive effect on Abbeyshrule. The photographs in your submission are a nice touch.

The Built Environment:

It is good to note the committee receives the cooperation required from property owners. Bridges were well presented and you have rightly identified them as being perhaps the most important part of the built environment in the area. We wish you well on your aspirations to highlight the impressive architecture of the "Whitworth Aqueduct". The majority of buildings are nicely presented. The curtilage of the large corrugated commercial premises appears to be underdeveloped. Perhaps a fascia sign could be provided for the unnamed pub. The presentation of "The Sisters of our Lady of the Mission" building was admired. The church continues to look magnificent.

Landscaping:

The hedgerow at the church was particularly admired and the scent of roses hung heavily in the air on adjudication day. Your landscaping is made up of a successful mixture of mature and semi-mature trees together with wild grasses and flowers and formal flower displays including container plants; grass verges are also being nicely maintained. A concrete block wall of an out-building on the Colehill road could be planted with a climbing plants, preferably one with year round interest and colour. It is good to note that the committee will liaise with Waterways Ireland in relation to landscaping for their proposed works.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The proposed development in Abbeyshrule by Waterways Ireland is exciting and can only enhance the physical and social fabric of the Abbeyshrule community. We look forward to its completion and considering it for next year's adjudication. Wildfowl have been noted on your waterways and indeed you have been nominated for the Waterways Award together with the Wildlife Award; the Bog Walk is a fine amenity development also. The harbour area is both neat and attractive. We commiserate with you on the problem posed by wild mink regarding the threat for newly hatched ducklings and admire your aspiration for the further development of the fishing potential of the canal.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent during the time of the adjudication. Your newsletter is obviously achieving its goals and your regular litter collection for the village and approach roads is effective. Abbeyshrule is a good example of what can be achieved when the entire local community is supportive of the litter management strategy of the Tidy Towns Committee.

Tidiness:

Well done on your recycling point and on regular sweeping of roads. Some rough roadside edges were noticeable where work to buildings was in progress. Be vigilant regarding building materials and ensure that these are completely removed on the completion of projects. An untidy site to the side and rear of the old Hall was noted.

Residential Areas:

A dwelling located from the "Rustic Inn" premises was excellent in presentation and its sash windows were admired. The thatched cottage continues to be attractively presented. The garden of a new house has yet to be landscaped, no doubt this will be achieved for next years presentation. The majority of residential properties are presented to a high standard. The "Barley Garden" residential development has unusual design features and looks as though it will be an attractive development. A fine overall presentation under this heading.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

We wish you well regarding your road resurfacing objectives and your endeavor to create an attractive vista on the three approach roads leading into the village. Hopefully the service poles and associated cables at the canal will be removed and cables ducted as these look quite bad. Well done on the regular maintenance of hedges and verges on approach roads. Street furniture looks well, no doubt new street furniture will be purchased and put in place with the completion of amenity walks as these should be signposted from the village centre.

General Impression:

The overall appearance and presentation of Abbeyshrule is excellent and we look forward to the further development of your amenity features.

Second Round Adjudication:

The charming village of Abbeyshrule is fortunate in its location on Royal Canal. Plans for development by Waterways Ireland are looked forward to with eager anticipation! Do ensure that outbuildings and industrial units are not neglected when considering presentation-the tin roof of a large building on the Longford Road should be painted before next year's competition. Relatively new ash trees on this approach are maturing well, as indeed are trees in the central parts of the village. Perhaps further landscaping can be considered in this location in order to "soften" it further? The Rustic Inn was well maintained and the Bring Centre was quite neat. The modern church was admired, with its well maintained grounds. Perhaps, again, more trees could be considered here?