

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mayo Abbey**

Ref: **185**

County: **Mayo**

Mark: **191**

Category: **A**

Date: **22/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	32
The Built Environment	40	28	26
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	10
Litter Control	40	24	23
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	191	186

Overall Developmental Approach:

Mayo Abbey has a very special atmosphere reflective of the very strong ecclesiastical history that surrounds this very attractive village. Your Tidy Towns Committee have a very important role to make sure that this heritage is preserved undamaged for future generations. At the same time if new development is proposed, that development must respect the very important heritage that Mayo Abbey has. The 5 Year Plan 2003 - 2008 is a most useful document and states quite clearly what your objectives are for each year. Another important aspect of Mayo Abbey is the natural environment that is dominated by beautiful mature trees.

The Built Environment:

The new Church is a most wonderful building of exciting modern design that fits the community perfectly. It is a pity however to find the Church locked during the day. This building illustrates how a modern building can be fitted into a traditional community. The nearby School and Resource Centre are also excellent buildings. The landscaping around these three buildings is outstanding and the level of maintenance is really very good. Congratulations to all those responsible. The graveyard is being well maintained but the main gates should be painted black to match the railings on either side. Can any new use be found for the old Catholic Church. It is a pity to see grass growing in the gutters. Other buildings in Mayo Abbey are of course much smaller in scale and the majority of which are being maintained to a high standard.

Landscaping:

The landscaping at the Church, School and Resource Centre has been mentioned above. This is an excellent example of how landscaping should be done and maintained on an on going basis. The small landscaped area by the post box is attractive with the fine mature trees. The small landscaped area at the corner going up to the graveyard and old church, though attractive, perhaps lacks the impact that it might have. A stronger use of colour in slightly elevated beds might be a possibility.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have been involved in native planting and that is the correct approach. This area is an excellent one for birds and other wildlife. Have you considered having a Survey carried out of the flora and fauna in the village area? The results of such a Survey would help your Committee to focus on planting that will encourage wildlife to the area. A logical step following the Survey would be to provide display plaques illustrating the local flora and fauna.

Litter Control:

Your annual spring clean is noted and on adjudication day litter control was quite good. Do you involve the school children in your anti litter campaigns?

Tidiness:

Tidiness is noted as being a priority area for you in 2004. Indeed on adjudication day Mayo Abbey was looking quite tidy. Dead grass was noted in the car park beside the post box. Have you considered getting permission to paint all field gates a bright colour coordinated throughout the village? Dead grass as a result of the use of weed killer was noted in several areas. Such grass should be removed as quickly as possible. The railings at the National School might be painted matt black.

Residential Areas:

Fine mature colourful private gardens caught the eye on the Ballinrobe approach road. In general private properties were well presented and a number appeared to have been painted recently.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The standard of approach roads was quite uneven. The Balla approach road is quite attractive with the grassed area and semi mature trees. However at least one of the trees has been broken and should be replaced urgently. On the Ballinrobe approach there has been extensive use of weed killer and the dead weeds and grass have not been removed. Weed killer is not a solution to approach road maintenance; it may have a minor role. Cut grass on approach roads that had not been raked and taken away was also noted in several instances. On the Ballyglass approach road only part of the verge had been cut recently.

General Impression:

Mayo Abbey is a beautiful village steeped in history and this makes it rather unique. Do continue to preserve the past while looking to the future with confidence. Well done to everyone involved!