

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Abbeyshrule**

Ref: **590**

County: **Longford**

Mark: **244**

Category: **A**

Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	41
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>242</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Abbeyshrule is most welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your continued participation during this difficult time for you. The village is undergoing a transformation and works are most disruptive to the every day life of the village, so it is no small achievement that you have not only maintained the high standards that we have come to expect from you but have had a small increase in marks also. Thank you for your excellent submission which includes details of work in progress, these were most helpful.

### The Built Environment:

The two pubs were beautifully presented and it was good to note the rear facades of buildings visible from the bridge were as nicely painted as roadside facades, well done on this. The church continues to look magnificent and its grounds are being beautifully maintained. The Little Convent of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions is charming and almost inviting.

### Landscaping:

Grass verges leading into the village from approach roads are being maintained beautifully and their trees are maturing well. Mature shrubberies at various locations around the village and particularly at the picnic area in the centre look really healthy. The picnic area itself is nicely presented and the

green is well maintained. Hanging baskets and other floral displays were admired for their colour and profusion, well done. The stand of mature trees standing sentinel on the entrance from the Pallas junction are quite magnificent.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Work in progress on the canal and its banks ensured that wildlife were not visible at the time of adjudication, however we do know they are there because we have seen them on previous visits and no doubt they will be back when the construction work has been completed. The graveyard enjoys an excellent level of maintenance, its railings will need to be refurbished at some stage in the future.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control is excellent. There were a few scraps noted on the day of adjudication but they did not present a problem. This is a fine achievement considering the number of people working in the village at this time. Keep us up to date about your overall litter management strategy and litter activities.

### **Tidiness:**

The village had an overall appearance of tidiness, however a few side and rear areas were noted. Whilst the village was litter free there was a lot of muck on the road surfaces and footpaths, however this is only to be expected given the nature of construction work that was ongoing at the time of adjudication. The recycling point is well positioned and hopefully much used.

### **Residential Areas:**

Older mature residential properties continue to put their best face forward, including garden areas. The new residential development at the picnic area is shaping up nicely. Construction work was still in progress on the day of adjudication and we await the final unveiling.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

As already mentioned, approach roads are neatly and attractively presented with good fingerpost signage and nameplates. The road surface and the surface of the footpath at the picnic area, particularly the latter, was quite potholed and will need to be resurfaced in the near future. Street furniture in general looked well. The bridges are being maintained weed free, well done.

### **General Impression:**

Abbeyshrule is undergoing a transition which will take it to the next level in the competition when works have been completed. We all just have to be a little patient.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

The development works are certainly stalling your endeavours to advance further in the competition. However, the completed developments will signal a new era for canal users and focus increased attention on the amenity facilities of the area. There was a lovely quietness in Abbeyshrule during an evening adjudication and it is easy to understand why the Cistercians came here in the 12th century. You are endowed with a lovely river, rich parklands, a host of mature trees and of course the manmade canal. You just need to hold the line for an other while and then you will be well positioned to progress further in the competition. Abbeyshrule has potential to be a high scorer in a few years: don't drop your sights. A visit to the abbey observed progress on preservation of the fabric and we hope this will conclude shortly.

