

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Abbeyfeale** Ref: **437**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **211**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **07/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	27
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>211</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Abbeyfeale is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2006. As you will read, there are a number of very strong features to Abbeyfeale. However, we hope that next year you include more details in your entry form to ensure that all the activities undertaken in the town by the committee and the community are given recognition in the marks awarded. Unfortunately, the entry form was rather incomplete with no specific projects mentioned for this year, and nothing seems at all planned for the future, and this is rather disappointing. You also didn't include a map of the town which would have been helpful on adjudication day.

From the details that were supplied, we'd suggest that your committee of six may be rather small taking account of the size of the town. You also appear not to have the support of other agencies or bodies.

To really develop, a three year plan should be drawn up identifying how you can recruit more support and clearly targeting those projects which need to be done over the years. Not only will this give you clear objectives, it will also allow you monitor progress. By sending this with your entry form, the adjudicator can then also see all the work that has taken place and is planned and ensure you get the credit.

### **The Built Environment:**

Abbeyfeale is a fine town, and some of the commercial properties caught the eye of the adjudicator, including Leen's Hotel, proudly flying two Munster Rugby Club flags; Twohig's SuperValu, Railway Bar; Gifts & Interiors, and the AIB. The artwork, depicting Market Day in Abbeyfeale by Ken Avey, screening the building beside SuperValu was much admired. And pleased to note that the Golden Vale Marts has been painted since last year. Father Casey's GAA Club house was looking good but the car park surface is poor, and the same can be said for Abbeyfeale United FC. Stock City is colourful, but there are too many signs which give a very untidy appearance to this area. Again the Church and grounds looked well, as did The Garda Station and

surrounding grounds; Fire Station and Scoil Mhuire, but the Convent buildings are very badly weather stained. Pairc Cois Failte looked very well, and the parking areas had been well marked on the new surface. There are many business premises about the town and some look well, but many are in need of refurbishment. Perhaps one of your local artists could do something with improving the look of the old Cinema?

### **Landscaping:**

The raised flower beds at the entrance to Pairc Cois Failte were admired, as was the landscaping at Belfry Towers. The hard landscaped feature at the centre of the town looked very well with well staked trees, surrounded by some lovely plantings of New Zealand flax and a variety of different coloured grasses. The seating and litter bins in this area are top class. The commercial operators in the town should be encouraged to add some suitable floral displays to their premises.

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

You make no reference in your entry form to this category, which means an important aspect of the environment is sadly being missed. We would again encourage you to consult the Tidy Towns handbook which will give you ideas for a wildlife project, even if this just consists of bird tables in Scoil Mhuire, which the children could monitor and from this a Wild Bird Information Board could be placed in the school yard. I'm sure the school would be willing to lend a hand and help you develop some ideas under this category.

### **Litter Control:**

The litter control situation in the town centre was good again this year, and a sprinkling of litter was only noted by Teach na Feile, including inside the boundary wall, by O'Connell's and at the entrance to Belfry Towers. You have many litter bins in the town but they do vary in style and standard, and some need to be upgraded or replaced.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

This is a new category for 2006 and we suggest that the committee consults the Race Against Waste booklet which was included in this year's Tidy Towns pack. This gives plenty of ideas on composting, recycling clothes and the school's participation in the Green Schools initiative, etc. You already have a bring bank, so some waste is being recycled. You may also get some useful information on this from the Environmental Section of Limerick County Council.

### **Tidiness:**

The green area surrounding the fine tree planting on the Limerick approach is overgrown and does look poorly as one arrives in the town. Fly posting was also in evidence and this distracts from what are otherwise fine premises. Weed control may also be needed in some areas, although this should be done in consultation with the Heritage Officer in Limerick County Council to avoid damaging habitats.

### **Residential Areas:**

There are many fine private dwellings on all approaches to the town and in the town centre area, and many sported some fine mature gardens. The dwellings in the Orchard Drive estate looked well but the green areas were up to 30cms high and weeds were growing all along the kerbs. At the Cryle View and the new Glen Cryle estates the dwellings were well presented, with fine trees planted on the green areas, but the grass again was in need of cutting. It was noted that the duplex and apartment complex of Rivergarden was under construction and it is hoped that the area will be properly landscaped when the development is complete.

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

The signage on all approaches to the town was in good order. The road surfaces were also good, as were the pavements. As mentioned in last year's report, the fine Irish street signage is rusting badly, -perhaps this could be one project identified in your new three year plan mentioned above.

### **General Impression:**

The town of Abbeyfeale is a commercial centre and is located on the N21 about equal distance from Limerick and Killarney so you have many tourists travelling through the town. We would encourage you to seek the support of as many of the local community as possible to make Abbeyfeale a place where visitors would like to stop en route to their holiday destination. Tidy Towns offers the opportunity for everybody to work together in common interest under all the categories above. The commercial benefits, never mind the improvement in quality of life, should encourage others to help you in your activities next year. Good luck with your endeavours.

