

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Abbey** Ref: **104**  
County: **Galway** Mark: **276**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **30/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	46
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	39
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>276</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you very much for your application and the accompanying proposed five year development plan. You communicate well with the local community via a selection of mediums and it is encouraging that you have dedicated members, community co-operation and large voluntary support. It is also encouraging that you have appointed a dedicated school liaison officer to facilitate regular engagement with the local school and as you will see in the following report your endeavours are reaping rewards.

### **The Built Environment:**

The Church enjoys a prominent location in the village and is obviously well maintained. The church bells were a delight to hear while we strolled around the village during our adjudication. The community centre is well maintained although we did notice some moss covering the roof; therefore we are pleased to read in your application that you have received planning permission to re-roof the building. As you recognise the problem with dereliction is a difficult one to tackle and you are commended on holding meetings and sending a letter to each household requesting that dereliction be dealt with and for continuing to present any neglected buildings as best you can without causing problems. Some derelict buildings have been upgraded but some work still remains. The public toilets were very well kept on the outside but were locked. St. Feichins National School extension was on-going. Hynes and Holohans also were well presented.

### **Landscaping:**

There are number of attractive planting schemes throughout the village including the Herb Garden, the Village Green and Finnegans Garden. The use of flower boxes in the old farm building across the road from the community centre is well thought and does make the building more appealing. The colourful planting across from the community centre near the Abbey is well maintained, it is obvious that there are a number of avid gardeners in Abbey!

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Abbey has a wealth of wildlife; the stone walls, stream, hedgerows, thickets and greens offer rich and diverse habitat. Your work in relation to wildlife is quite impressive; in particular we liked the sign detailing information of wild birds that the local children carried out in 2006, which you have stated has been updated. Numerous bird feeding areas, nesting boxes and bat boxes were also noticed in and around the village. Your idea to develop a reed bed and shallow pond along the existing river and to develop a Sli na Slainte is interesting and it is important that you engage the help of experts to advise further.

**Litter Control:**

No litter was evident anywhere in the Village – well done. Your “Keep Abbey Tidy” signs must be doing their job.

**Waste Minimisation:**

You have potential to improve significantly in this category. We acknowledge the work liaising with businesses to provide recycling bins. The local school children are also recycling well with their weekly can collection. Have you considered sourcing home composters for households in the area? We think householders with excess compost would find outlets for the composting throughout the village given the standard of landscaping evident. The Recycling Officer at Galway County Council or the Race against Waste website may be able to point you in the right direction. The local national school is proudly displaying the Green Flag; for a future project they could follow on their garden bird sign with another one but in relation to insects and organisms found in the River.

**Tidiness:**

Your idea to develop a “tidiness checklist” with volunteers in the village carrying out spot checks in the area is good. This is just an example of the attention to detail exhibited that allows you to be amongst the high scores in the competition.

**Residential Areas:**

We visited the estate near Lady Well and liked the landscaping here, though many of the houses seemed unoccupied. Generally, housing in the area is of good standard and well kept. You have appointed a committee member to liaise with new householders and advise on appropriate native planting – well done. This communication may also prompt new residents to enlist.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The approach roads from all directions are well maintained and the roses at the Welcome sign were in full bloom and well maintained. The removal of the chain link fencing and replacement with stone and wood fencing on the approach road from Portumna has begun and is more in keeping with the character of the village. We look forward to its completion and it will make for a much more appealing approach to the village. The proposed new street lights should be more vernacular in style and also in-keeping with the rural area. We liked your Abbey Visitors Sign which was very informative and presented well.

**General Impression:**

We thoroughly enjoyed our adjudication of Abbey and were impressed by attention to detail that was evident. The Community Development Association is consistently working hard to maintain the village and we welcome your dedication and forward thinking with regards to promotion of the Abbey and the villages' historic past, developing the river and encouraging community spirit. Once again, you have raised your marks this year due to your efforts, well done and best wishes for the 50th anniversary of the competition next year.