

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Abbey** Ref: **104**
County: **Galway** Mark: **286**
Category: **B** Date(s): **27/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	46
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28
Litter Control	50	40
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	286

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Abbey to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for the most detailed entry documentation together with copies of the two local history booklets that was most interesting. The colour photographs helped to give a great picture of some of your work for 2008. With 16 people on your Committee you enjoy very strong community support and that was reinforced by the adjudication visit. You are working with a wide range of agencies and organisations together with the School and this is indeed to best approach to progress in the competition. Congratulations on your 1st place in Co. Galway in the TidyTowns Competition for three years in a row. The adjudicator commends your wish to get new residents involved in your work. In regard to the 3 Year TidyTowns Plan it is recommended that you identify the projects to be undertaken each year together with the supporting agencies and organisations for each project. The idea of the heritage website is welcomed as Abbey has some heritage all around the village. Do remember that the TidyTowns Handbook gives great information and suggestions. Both new Committees and those who have been involved in the competition for some time will find this booklet really useful.

The Built Environment:

The Primary School extension has been a major project for the village and the adjudicator commends in the strongest way possible the excellent presentation of the National School. Here the two tone colour scheme has been carefully chosen and this was enhanced with colourful window boxes. The road boundary wall had not been forgotten either. The Green Flag was proudly flying. Beside the School a derelict building was noted and this really needs cosmetic attention with the agreement of the owner(s) for 2009, if at all possible. The Catholic Church and grounds are beautifully presented and the landscaping and the building have a visual unity that does not always happen. The good colour scheme here is good. The adjudicator admired the small stone building with the freshly painted weighing scales as an echo of earlier history in Abbey. The Community Center was very neat and tidy and nearby the lovely Hynes frontage caught the eye.

Landscaping:

The Finnegan's Garden was beautifully presented with the babbling stream nearby that looked so well with the planting along the top of the wall of the stream. The Herb Garden is another example of the dedication of your Committee to investigating in detail every aspect of the competition. The many hanging baskets and window boxes carried through the village the colour first noted on the beautiful approach roads. The adjudicator agrees fully with your desire to achieve year round colour rather than just a summer colourful burst. The Lady Well was beautifully landscaped and attention to detail was noted here and the information panels here are really interesting. The main landscaped area in the center of the village was splendidly presented and the Roses picnic table and fine tree here were admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator looks forward to seeing the results of the Insect Survey being carried out by the Beaver Scouts. Congratulations on the sowing of the six beds of wildflowers; what a great investment in future beauty. The deadwood habitat pile is welcomed as a contribution to your support for biodiversity. The problem with water flow in the stream was noted and hopefully the advice from NUIG will work well, though on adjudication day the flow was strong.

Litter Control:

Litter control is another of your strong performance areas and the Litter Survey a worth while project. For 2009 you might include a copy of that. The adjudicator supports the idea of a Bring Centre for Abbey and recommends a heavily landscaped high visibility location. Litter control again this year was excellent.

Waste Minimisation:

The adjudicator admired the many initiatives that you have undertaken for this year under this adjudication category. Your involvement with the farmers, the School and the County Council has all led to excellent initiatives that have advanced your marks under this category this year.

Tidiness:

The discussion with individual residents is a great way forward and has brought good results this year. Attention to detail in regard to tidiness issues seems to be a key characteristic of how you approach your work for Tidy Towns in Abbey.

Residential Areas:

Many properties seemed to have been freshly painted and good landscaping features at many private houses. Eagle Hill was neatly presented apart from the pile of timber at the turning area. By the Lady Well the small estate here was tidy with an attractive large grass area.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads were excellently presented and the lush green grass margins and fine Limestone walls created a great first impression. The flower bed at the 80 KPH sign on the Portumna road was especially admired.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure for your adjudicator to visit Abbey. You have made great progress over the years and continue to do so. Good luck with your Tidy Towns projects for 2009 when we look forward to visiting you again.