

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Abbey** Ref: **104**
County: **Galway** Mark: **289**
Category: **B** Date(s): **10/06/2009**
28/07/2009

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30
Litter Control	50	40
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	289

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed entry form, three year development proposals and the useful map. Your development plans sets out, with commendable brevity and clarity, the main issues facing your committee and the wider community. Your 15 person committee has undertaken a range of activities and projects which is indicative of your deep commitment to the ideals of the TidyTown's concept. In common with many centres the current financial restraints has forced an elongated time line on some aspects of your plans.

The many stone walls throughout the Abbey are a delight and it is pleasing to see work in progress on their extension. The national school's survey of bird life and its display at the river is a commendable project. In a re-working of your three year plan for 2010 seek to identify the priority items for implementation, note the agencies with whom you will be involved to secure their completion and attempt to construct the difficult time line - state the expected start and conclusion date of each project. This exercise certainly concentrates the mind and transfers what can become an aspirational "wish list" into a tangible, realisable programme of works.

The Built Environment:

The small Lady Well Abbey restoration programme has been completion to very good effect. The window boxes on the school certainly enhance its overall appearance. The Community Centre was looking well. The Church and Parochial house were strong, positive elements in the streetscape. The presentation of the old weighting scales is a delightful cameo.

Landscaping:

Very fine planting where work is in progress at the little bridge was admired. We applaud the sign alluding to items of interest in the locality. The Cross beside the river was of interest while the presentation of the Old Abbey, graveyard and grounds was of a high order. The ruins of the Franciscan Friary and the surrounding

area were well presented. Finnegan's Garden is a delight at the commencement of the Portumna Road while the grounds of the Lady's Well Abbey also made their contribution. The mature trees on the road leading from here to the Post Office, together with the School and Church grounds complete a very good presentation in this category. Your ongoing encouragement of hanging baskets and window boxes continues.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The survey of insect life and the display of the results by the Beaver Scouts is a most interesting undertaking. The decision to cut back the road verges by only one metre will certainly help to sustain the necessary food chain on which wild life and particularly bird life necessarily depend.

Litter Control:

The perfusion of 'Keep Abbey Tidy' signs throughout the village all help to highlight and emphasise the need to keep litter at bay. The litter survey sheet is an excellent idea. Is there a case to be made for the completed survey sheets to be displayed in some public place on a weekly basis? The litter bin opposite the Church looked fine and litter management throughout the village was of a high order.

Waste Minimisation:

Congratulations to the School on retaining its Green Flag status. The range of activities and projects taken by the committee has clearly kept the concept of waste minimisation to the fore. Securing 5 participants in the Poly-tunnel project is a case in point. Encouraging and facilitating the stocking and sale of home composters is equally beneficial.

Tidiness:

The shed in the priest's house is now looking very well and full marks to all involved. The decision of the IFA to collect and recycle the silage wrap is a worthwhile break through in the enhancement of the rural countryside. Work on the pathways and sweeping the streets continues apace and indeed was very much in evidence on the day of adjudication. Where it is deemed necessary to use chemical rather than physical means for the removal of weeds, please insure that the resulting dead vegetation is collected and swept away.

Residential Areas:

The new 10 house development at Cinéal Feichín was very well presented. Appropriate planting added to its swept and orderly presentation. The communal grassed area at Eagle Hill Estate was well maintained and the newly plastered wall looked well. In other estates and throughout the village generally, front facing walls, fences, gardens and open spaces were presented to a very high level.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The practice of cutting just a meter wide verge on the approach roads is an ideal compromise with a satisfying amount of retained growth to encouraging bird and wild life. The stone bridge, beyond Lynch's had the verges suitable cut back and we found the butterfly survey of interest. The Gort Road and indeed all approach roads had very well presented village name plates and speed limit signs that were neat and orderly.

General Impression:

The eager anticipation of the younger generation, especially those in the Beavers and Cub Scout movement augers well for the future of Abbey. Truly it can be said that the child is father to the man and they are blessed in both their locality and in the role models available to them.

Thanks and all credit to everyone involved in this splendid presentation. Your endeavours are applauded and you are wished well in the future.

Second Round Adjudication:

Marvellous rose beds were admired on both the Portumna and Gort sides of Abbey, and at the church. Landscaping was flourishing throughout-planting on the far side of the stream was admired, although it was wondered if you had considered an alternative to the concrete post and wire fence in this location? The Village Green was simply and effectively presented, and an attractive planted bed opposite the community centre was admired. On approach roads, the verges were well cut and hedging was maturing well behind stone walling. The road surfaces appeared a little rough in places. An outbuilding with blocked out windows on the Portumna approach would benefit from some attention. New stone walling was admired, as were the relatively new ash trees to a new house, which were coming along well. Holland's shop was very fresh and is an attractive traditional shop front. The church and school were both very fresh. The village was in good condition from a

litter perspective, apart from a bottle on the Gort road. Signage throughout is attractive and in good condition.