

# Tidy Towns Competition 2014

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Abbeylara** Ref: **472**  
County: **Longford** Mark: **250**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **26/06/2014**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	43
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	34
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	35
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	25
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	48
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	24
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>250</b>

### **Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:**

Abbeylara is welcomed to the 2014 Tidy Towns competition. Thank you for your entry and map. The adjudicator felt that a hand drawn map of the village indicating the projects you would like the adjudicator to see should be included with your entry. You have an active committee of six members who meet regularly. You have a good system of communication with the community and you get good support from local agencies with funding or whatever assistance may be needed. Well done to the school on their green flags award and on their junior Tidy Towns group. The committee will have plenty of help with their projects.

### **Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:**

The Church is an imposing building that complements the streetscape. The adjacent car park and parish centre were also admired. The landscaping provides a superb finish to this superb amenity for the community. The stone wall along the road is in keeping with stone walls that one sees on the approach roads to the village. The ball alley was also noted and this amenity looks to get plenty of use. The planters at the front entrance looked bright and clean. The G.A.A. grounds were also visited. The murals on the white background were admired. The garden centre was busy on day of adjudication which is excellent to see. The school was looking pristine with its green flags. The unoccupied house beside the school has been painted and window boxes have brought this area to life. The ruins of the Cistercian Monastery were noted. This heritage building is a part of the villages past history and it is good that it is not forgotten. The local bar and Farrell's grocery were well maintained. Like most villages and towns Abbeylara has its own share of unoccupied houses and buildings which leaves the work of the Tidy Towns group more difficult. Well done on the work you are doing in this area.

### **Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:**

There are nice areas of landscaping in the village. The grounds of the parish centre has some super landscaping. The landscaped beds at the river with picnic tables and well maintained green area was admired. The old village sign on the garden centre road looked splendid. The park area has nice trees and shrubs. In this area weed growth in gravel was noted and needs to be addressed.

### **Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:**

Derragh walk at the lake is an important amenity that you have created for the community. This is also an area where many different types of wildlife will be noticed. Groups are encouraged to host events that celebrate and raise awareness of wildlife species and habitats in their area. This area would make an excellent location for such an event. The schoolchildren should be included in any event that takes place.

### **Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:**

This category is about waste prevention by reducing the amount of waste produced in the first place in the community. Groups are encouraged to carry out some type of waste awareness survey to ascertain what level the community is at, in terms of waste prevention. This will help you in areas that are most likely to achieve results. Many groups are partaking in workshops on stop food waste. There are many savings on waste to be made in this area. Composting can be extended to the wider community. Groups are also encouraged to harvest rainwater. Demonstrations around this should also be organised. Do work with the schools in this category as the knowledge that they have obtained from their participation in the green school programme can be shared with the wider community. The local authorities prevention network website have added a specific Tidy Towns page to this website providing practical tips and advice on sustainable waste and resource management. The website address is <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>. This hopefully will be of benefit to groups.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Your plan on controlling litter appears to be working well. Do you have a national spring clean? Are there any areas of litter black spots? Involving the schoolchildren in the village in regular litter picks is important. Combatting litter is a community effort working towards a zero litter village. Some areas of untidiness were noted on day of adjudication. Grass growth outside the green area looks untidy and also some growth along kerbs was noted. The bottle bank was neat and tidy. Signage could do with cleaning.

### **Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:**

The residences throughout the village and on approach roads are well maintained. It is good to note that some residents are taking care of their own estates like Abbey Court. This is a great help to the Tidy Towns group with their work on the presentation of the village. All estates should have bilingual name plates at entrance. Gardens were well presented with nice landscaping. The hanging baskets and window boxes all added colour to the village. The residents are to be commended on their work in this category.

### **Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:**

All approach roads had well landscaped entrance signs. The stone with Abbeylara was also admired. There are lovely areas of mature trees and well maintained grass verges. A beeline of grass can be left along hedges on approach roads. This creates a corridor for wildlife. The stone walls throughout the village and on approach roads give a superb entrance to the village. Some field gates are in need of painting. Groups are encouraged to have all gates painted in a uniform colour where possible.