

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Abbey** Ref: **104**
County: **Galway** Mark: **315**
Category: **A** Date(s): **25/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	43	43
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	38	38
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	44	44
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	36	38
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	18	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	40	40
TOTAL MARK	450	310	315

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Abbey is very welcome to the 2016 National Tidy Towns Competition. The development plan, map, ecology booklet and water news publication enclosed with your application was most helpful to the adjudicator. There is good interpretation throughout the village and a good overall awareness of heritage is evident. Your small village appears to have a very active Tidy Towns Committee and is able to mobilise most of the community to help with your efforts. Engaging the local school together with beavers, cubs, scouts and new families to the village should ensure your success for many years to come. Your community heritage website looks terrific and is a great resource that all the community can build on. It is a good idea to take one primary area for high-powered investment of time each year, this can also help to keep volunteers and members motivated. Log onto universaldesign.ie for ideas on creating buildings and spaces with universal access. Thank you for being part of the Tidy Towns Competition for so many years, your involvement is important to us.

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

The national school grounds and building have an excellent presentation and the green flag is noted on the school, well done to all involved. The church and its grounds are neatly presented together with the car park. Holohan's premises looks well. Kilnalahan Abbey and burial grounds are being beautifully managed. Well done on securing the cooperation of local business owners in re-roofing unattractive sheds in the village centre. As you are aware, constant vigilance is required in keeping unoccupied premises looking neat and your efforts under this heading are noted.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The Ladywell Pattern development is welcome, particularly in respect of its interpretation. Red roses are a stunning splash of colour and have featured in a number of locations. Other flower beds were admired also and your focus on providing year-round colour is great, well done on coordinating your scouts and local DIY shop. Your tree-cutting propagation efforts are noted. Keep in mind that landscaped sites for recreational amenity do not have to be permanent, 'pop-up' temporary sites are useful also and can make good use of space that is not in frequent demand.

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

Thank you for the booklet entitled the Ecology of Abbey Village County Galway, this is a wonderful achievement and contains a lot of important information on Abbey's contribution to the natural environment. Including pollinator-friendly plants in flower displays is a worthwhile endeavour. The Apiary walk is a fine development and

the wildlife sanctuary is invaluable, particularly in respect of its interpretation and presentation. Well done also on your beekeeping project. The continuous education development of your committee members through courses will provide invaluable resources to the whole community and provide inspiration for projects for many years to come. Good luck with your plans for a nature walk, we look forward to seeing it become a reality for future adjudications. Remain cognizant of invasive non native species and seek expert advice on their management if relevant.

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

The Water News supplement was enjoyable reading. The adjudicator particularly enjoyed The Water Cycle diagram and children's poems and jokes throughout. Well done to pupils who have worked hard for Green Flag status. The recycling point was really admired and the re-use of the old waterwheel most imaginative. The results of your household waste survey were interesting and we anticipate you will continue to monitor these and promote these efforts. Engaging your whole community in these endeavours, from shop owners and residents to school children exhibits a cohesive approach that allows each group to contribute to the each other's work in this regard.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Litter control was excellent due in part to frequent bin emptying. There was no weed growth noted along the base of stone walls, of which there are a great number. There are still some overhead service cables which diminishes visual amenity however we note from your Development Plan that you aim to have these ducted at some time in the future. Perhaps you could keep us informed of your efforts in this regard. Commendations to volunteers spotted on duty on the day of adjudication.

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

A beautiful garden to the house just inside the name plate on the Loughrea entrance was especially admired. Many properties feature neatly trimmed hedgerow to their roadside boundaries. There is a nicely presented small residential development at Eagle Hill. Pairc Cineal Feicin is nicely landscaped, however some of the properties need attention, particularly to boundary walls. Residential properties within the village centre and approach roads are, for the most part, well maintained.

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

The village features beautiful entrances, good signage, neat verges and colourful flower displays. Stretches of well-maintained stone wall are an attractive feature of Abbey. Road signage is good throughout. The Eagle Hill entrance is beautiful. Some weather-stained walls across from the site of the bugs hotel could be improved as they mark an entrance into the village. Thank you for your explanation of the Lazy Wall this year, this is an interesting little note. Well done on your liaison with Galway County Council regarding providing tarmac pathways and resurfacing side roads, we look forward to witnessing the results of this in years to come.

Concluding Remarks:

It was your adjudicators first time in Abbey for too many years and it was a pleasure to see the wonderful progress made to the visual and recreational amenity of the village. Thank you for a pleasant visit.