

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Abbeyshrule** Ref: **473**
County: **Longford** Mark: **320**
Category: **A** Date(s): **09/07/2015**
06/08/2015

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	49	50
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	40	40
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	44	44
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	34	35
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	65	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	41	41
TOTAL MARK	450	316	320

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Fáilte Mainistir Shraithla! Welcome Abbeyshrule to the Super Valu 2015 National Tidy Towns competition. It was good to be back in this lovely village after a few years absence - during which you obtained the ultimate national accolade! This adjudicator was not surprised after their last two visits over several years that you had achieved national success in the interim. The secret now is to maintain this standard and this is difficult to achieve - to keep up the momentum and also not to try to overachieve by adding unnecessary work which begins to complicate the place, and can eventually detract from the original classical simplicity and excellence that first found national recognition. We have no doubt that you have kept up the momentum from a Community Involvement and Planning point - of view. This was evidenced through your entry, and verified by the number of people out on the ground working at various aspects of enhancement and maintenance on adjudication day! This was also evidenced also by the long list of people involved on your committee. The fact that you have so many agencies, bodies and businesses continuing to support your activities speaks volumes. They obviously know that they are getting return on their inputs. It is an achievement indeed to be able to coordinate so many different groups and individuals on any committee. We are also delighted to hear that many of your committee members are new residents to the area. This new blood will bring new ideas and also ensure that new energy will help with progress.

Your communication methods are all-encompassing and surely ensure that nobody is left 'out of the loop'. Thank you for your newsletter copies. The newsletter is an attractive and colourful production. Although both local primary schools are somewhat outside the village proper you have - and continue to have huge involvement from the staff and students at both these schools. We read their letters of support with interest. We were also delighted to read the letters and see the photographs describing all their activities of relevance. You also have an established relationship with the two second level schools in the area. Having an established junior Tidy Towns team is in itself planning for the future. Entering the competition for 34 years shows dedication, loyalty and appreciation of your beautiful surroundings and committed community.

Well done on your new three-year plan recently drawn up and contained in your folder. You have set yourself many targets and we wish you the best with their achievement over the period of the plan. Thank you for your carefully annotated map which complied with the guidelines for entry to the competition, and in so doing makes the job of the adjudicator stress free in relation to finding each and every project without being involved in a treasure hunt! An agreeable and informative map - as yours was - is a really important aspect of any entry.

Your back up material is extensive, but focussed. It was very neatly presented and easily followed - although perhaps a table of contents would be useful with numbered pages.

Finally perhaps there is a little overlapping of projects between category headings in your entry form that may not be

necessary. It is usually sufficient to mention each particular project under one category heading – that to which is most obviously belongs. Obviously there will be some exceptional cases where overlap is appropriate. However the adjudicator will be able to see the connecting projects without repeating projects. Be careful to allocate them to their primary category.

Since visiting we read in some media report about the Argentina/Longford Association barbecue event to be held in Abbeyshrule. What a delightful location for such an interesting event! Perhaps you can tell us more about this in 2016. Is a twinning with an Argentinian village on the cards?

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

The streetscape in Abbeyshrule has remained intact and has not been plagued by poor development in any way. Added to this is the absolute excellent maintenance by all the property owners involved. We salute you for this. Once again we admired the beautiful and unusual church in its peaceful setting. We admired the bridges and associated harbour cut-stone embankments – all excellent examples of transport related architecture of the 19th century. We visited the Abbey and have some comments to make in relation to the Abbey (below) under the Tidiness and Roads Sections. The comment under the Tidiness section at the Abbey affects the overall experience of the quality of the built environment here. Since this adjudicator's last visit four years ago, there seems to have been little progress with conservation works at the Abbey. This possibly has much to do with the unavailability of funding. Nonetheless we notice that you are in contact with the County Heritage Officer in relation to the Abbey, and we are pleased to hear about this. Please fill us in next year on the status quo in relation to this issue.

As we have previously said Abbeyshrule has an abundant built architectural heritage The standard of good design is being maintained right into the 21st century with the new development at the Rustic Inn. We admired the canal-side development here. The timbered elevation looked really well. Perhaps it is a pity that the black services pipes were not enclosed/boxed. (See footnote at end of report in relation to your helicopter post- adjudication event). We once asked you if you could make more of these built environment features on-the-ground. We are now glad to see signage with photographs of the various bridges beside the canal. We still feel that more attention should be given to presentation of your built heritage. Consider this. Whereas your Walkways brochure includes some built environment content we would like to see more interpretation in some presented format - whether that be a sign, a trail, a map or perhaps an app of your built heritage - with professional architectural/conservation architectural comment – talk to your County Architectural Conservation Officer/Heritage Officer. This need not just refer to old structures - but also to 20th and 21st century structures. For instance include the modern church...it is significant. If it is not already a Protected Structure - perhaps it should be - because of its 20th century good design qualities.

If there was one place where this adjudicator felt some 'slippage' had happened it was under this category heading. In trying to achieve progress perhaps some issues with regard to the built environment and streetscape have somewhat marginally deteriorated. This has nothing to do with the maintenance of the buildings - which were in pristine condition - but has to do with general public realm design such as street furniture and street lighting. One of the features that impressed this adjudicator most on previous visits to Abbeyshrule was the village's classical simplicity and uniformity of design. The adjudicator considers that the use of three different kinds of seating, and three different types of public lighting jar considerably with the classic simplicity of the village streetscape. It is understandable that you may want to add to the various elements of the streetscape appropriately. Repeating a good but same design element in each repeated part of street furniture continues to give that unity and classical simplicity to a village. Varying design of elements of street furniture in such a small village is not good practice. It is also important to pick the most appropriate design from those in situ. Some are less appropriate than others. We would respectfully suggest that you consider this issue into the future. We would recommend that you seek professional architectural/landscape architectural advice from your local authority's architectural or planning departments in relation to this issue. We note that you have already sought professional advice on other developments in other adjudication categories. The area of public realm design should not be left to chance or ad hoc choices.

Well done on the repainting of the old factory facade, the waterways shed at the slipway, and the old hay barn roof near the aqueduct. Nonetheless we feel that the older murals at the factory need to be 'touched-up'. We were impressed with the upgrading of existing wildlife signs and information panels. This is a rolling project for every community and it is nice to see it being attended to. Other projects such as the undergrounding of telephone cables, liaison with the public participation networks, and updating of walkways' signs are commended. Projects 7 and 8 listed under this heading are more appropriately credited under the Sustainable Waste and Resource Management categories, and we do so under those headings. Well done on the continuing stone wall/gate pillar restoration project at the Dairy Meadow gate. The men involved in this project probably thought the adjudicator had forgotten to 'call', as we passed by on entering the village - thinking the 'meitheal' involved were a utilities work crew whom we did not wish to disturb! However on leaving the village we admired their work and liked their temporary sign 'project in progress.!' We loved the field gate with the green 'tongues of flame' motif. Perhaps a previous entry forms explains its significance. We would also ask you to desist from pinning /attaching/affixing anything to the stone bridges or other stone structures. Damage can be caused to the fabric of such structures by such work. Many of the bridges are protected structures. Please try to ensure that your signage and particularly your public lighting is freestanding for this reason. The River Inny /Abbeyshrule Bridge fish sign is simply pictorial with English titles. We encourage you to ensure that all signage is bilingual. You have ensured that this is the case on - for instance the Ballymahon approach nature signs. We particularly admired your bridge signage located in a lovely landscaped shrub bed canal-side. This is very informative visually. Whereas we do not expect the entire translation, it would be nice to see the titles/bridge names also given in Irish. Sometimes the Irish name can give us additional information

about the structure. We loved your enclosed Christmas card which showed the 7 bridges - based on a Functional Art project. We particularly admired the very informative sign which was bilingual at the Royal Canal Way directional signage. We loved your green picnic tables at the lock house. (However we are a little less sure about the appropriateness of the design of some of the other newer seating). This lovely picnic table design was repeated in the green space in the village centre and looked very well there also. We wholeheartedly commend your treatment of the village pump on the viaduct road in its simple classical display without ornament. It looked stunning on adjudication day. Likewise the red pump nearer the village looked resplendent with its lovely red colour echoed by the simple but effective floral display in the foreground. The stonewall backing sets this off so well. We know that it is - like your monks sculpture - not new this year - but we cannot help but remark on how well they look. Likewise we praise the detailed interpretive sign for the Abbey, and the reproduction of the Abbey cross roadside.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Apart from realising that you are in a special place because of the obvious love and care lavished on the approach roads, one immediately feels at peace in Abbeyshrule. The sound of water - together with the gentle rustling of the wind through the trees and grass - as well as the obvious birdsong leaves a lasting impression. Well done on the new planting on the Colehill Road. Last year's adjudicator suggested that perhaps you might look at the issue of reducing the amount of grass mowed on the approach roads and canal bank. This year it would appear that you have taken on board the suggestion in relation to the canal bank but possibly not in relation to the approach roads. Whereas the approach roads looked neat - perhaps in relation to the size of the village - the length of mowed grass along the approach roads is possibly excessive. You might let us know what you think about this next year. If you decide to continue to mow long sections along the approach roads please let us know your reasoning on this issue.

The information panel for the older lime tree in the Dairy Meadow is a lovely, unusual, and intriguing project. Such are the little additional features that make a place special and memorable. Landscaping in gardens throughout the village is very attractive. We particularly admired the display of roses in gardens on the Ballymahon approach. These looked particularly well along the stone wall garden boundaries. The landscaping display at the well opposite the old factory looked wonderful. The playground is a new element since this adjudicator's last visit but is not a 'this year project'.

The shrubbery area around the bog oak sculptures on the Colehill approach was a riot of colour on adjudication day. The delightful collection of flowers including wild daisies made for a photographer's dream photograph! This is a lovely natural enclave - one to be emulated. The bog oak sculptures themselves now have a magnificent mature shrub setting. The lovely soil-based red rose display near the canal bridge is simple and extremely effective.

We loved the lavender display and other beds on the path to the river at the end of the estate. The landscaping around the sewage plant area is effective and screening. The bog oak picnic tables along the river area look very well, and 'pick up' on the theme of bog oak elsewhere throughout the village. Some trees along the riverbank have been encroached upon by long grasses. 'Room to breathe' should be given to the trees by the removal of the immediate long grass surrounds. We absolutely loved the planted enclosed narrow avenue leading from the housing estate manicured area to the river. We expect this is a favourite area for children - an almost magical secret passage. The bicycle display at the Rustic Inn was picture-postcard perfect.

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

We have already commented on - but here also acknowledge and credit your upgrading of wildlife signage. The bee project is another interesting and very relevant informative piece of research which we viewed from the footpath and did as we were told - not to disturb the bees at work! Well done on travelling all the way to Tullamore for the beekeeping course. We wish you continued cooperation with the Anglers' group and the Kayak club. The new boat access on the North side of the aqueduct will be a useful addition to your water based amenities. Good luck with the foraging trail. Perhaps you can tell us more about your continuing work on the bat population next year. The whooper swans are a discerning bunch in their choice of wintering! The ducks also have a good home where "great care has been taken to support their existence in harsh winters" We are sure that you enjoyed the talk by the Bórd na Móna ecologist and perhaps this will lead to a further ongoing relationship with that body. You obviously appreciate the value of your Angling club and Walker's group - together with the very important local farming community in relation to constant feedback.

Whereas you mention the new uncut strips on all approach roads (inside the cut grass verges) under the Landscaping and Open Spaces category, it is here we credit you with acknowledging and implementing last year's adjudicator's comments as this is a Wildlife issue.

Well done on observing the nesting season hedge cutting legislation in general. However we did observe a small amount of lateral hedge cutting along the canal bank (below the canal harbour along the Nature Walk West). We liked your signage/request that all caught fish should be returned to the water. Bug hotels and bird boxes were noted. Well done on the community poly tunnel by the river Inny. The importance of the Irish bog and your proximity to great bogland is recognised in the documentation re bogland flora.

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

You have listed 17 projects under this category heading! You have obviously put a lot of thought and effort into increasing your standing in relation to Sustainable Waste and Resource Management. Water butts have been installed and the local authority are facilitating a school visit to the local water and sewage pumping station. Thank

you for the copy of the educational sticker for householders in relation to water-saving. This will be much appreciated in the current climate of household water costs. Your website is highly informative in relation to this category. The Environmental Awareness Officer of your local authority is continuing to work with your group by sampling three houses and their practices under this category heading. We look forward to hearing the results of phase two in 2016. The Rustic Inn is committed to waste food recycling. Well done to the operator who is accepting waste food free of charge! You continue to use your multifaceted communications methods to convey good practice. Returning flower containers and pots to the local nursery is carefulness in action, as often people are inclined to dispose of such pots. You know yourselves the other nine projects which you are involved with. We read all about each and viewed them (where applicable) with interest. To continue to list each would make this adjudication report far too long! We however would like to commend the Incredible Edible wall garden whose spoil we managed to resist! Other people whose input should be acknowledged here are the children involved in the craft workshops, the local authority in relation to energy-saving lighting, the Green Schools, the 'Tidy Tweens', the walking and cycling clubs and the local housing estate residents. Again well done on your imagination and commitment in all these works. Although you mention creating an interesting feature from redundant telephone poles under the approach roads section, this is really an 18th project under this category heading!

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It is hard to put in words how the general impression of tidiness in the village of Abbeyshrule comes across. On adjudication day it 'hits one in the eye' right from the approach road to leaving. On reviewing many photographic records of the day it also strikes one as exceptional. Properties are maintained to an exceptional standard. Grass is mown. Stone walls are valued. Floral displays are soil-based for the most part, and those in pots are colourful and well tended. Roads are swept, paths are weeded. It used to be said about a tidy place that 'you could eat your dinner from the streets.' Never is this truer than in Abbeyshrule. Nonetheless even Homer nods! The following comments relate largely to out of village centre - but within the village boundaries. They should be viewed as assisting you to aim for 100% perfection in this category.

On adjudication day the adjudicator thought that the immediate Abbey area itself looked a little neglected. Issues such as long grass growth, and animal waste along the footpath leading from the roadside graveyard to the Abbey might be addressed if possible. It is completely understandable that this is a farming area and such can be expected at some level. Can you perhaps organise a cleanup of this pathway on a regular basis? The inner graveyard beyond the Abbey had very long grass growing. It is important that this graveyard - because of its historic location - be maintained with correct archaeological advice. It looked rather overgrown on adjudication day in contrast to the graveyard between the roadside and the Abbey. We would also add the fact that the accessibility notice on the gate from the graveyard to the Abbey grounds itself is somewhat rundown looking, and also contains slightly different information to that inside the initial entrance to the graveyard itself. Both are probably accurate, but need coordination. Please note our comments under Roads section in this regard also.

The roof of a shed on the viaduct road would benefit from painting (non-village side). Is it necessary to retain a partly rusty container adjacent to the lock house? At your standard in the competition otherwise minute details are important. We would also draw your attention to the finial of the Abbey directional sign and the finial of the canal side directional sign - which are both beginning to peel a little. The finial at the Abbey sign is ever so slightly bent. Across the canal from the lock house (slightly further out along the canal) we observed what appears to be a rough piece of concrete agglomerate in the grass. A (walkers) sign near the canal bridge needs a little cleaning. The Edgeworthstown directional sign on the pole also containing signage for Pallas and Colehill was partly obscured by the adjacent tree on adjudication day. The poster for the 5K/10 K run in early June was still in place in your notice board. Notices should be removed once the event is over. The light near the gates of the church is beginning to rust towards the top. All these latter comments are almost 'fiddly' in content. However at your level in the competition we have to ensure that even the smallest detail is noticed as being important. The bring bank area, was beautifully maintained with an adjacent delightful bed of wild daisies and other blooms. Relevant signage is discreetly, yet adjacently located, well maintained and useful. One - presumably Christmas - star decoration is located atop a wooden pole. This is not appropriate in June. We understand the temptation to leave such in place due to the hassle and cost of removing and replacing such Christmas lights. But in a place like Abbeyshrule you are striving for perfection!

A notice attributing support for a project was pinned to a bog oak sculpture near the entrance to Corncrake Meadow. This is not an appropriate location for a project attribution. It should be freestanding. The generic County Longford village interpretive signage, located opposite the Rustic Inn is faded - as all such generic signage throughout the County is. The signs are very good and informative. They are also interesting insofar as they are easily recognisable to the visitor. However this sign - as in other villages needs renewal. With regard to litter - the simple fact is - we saw none! The composting area was judiciously located, and was extremely well maintained. "Mr Hedgehog's Home" sign needs repainting. Adjacent to the bog oak sculptures a rough access to a new house should be surfaced, as it is contiguous to the lovely shrub bog oak display area. The cattle crush area - which can be viewed from the bridge over the river - could be upgraded somewhat by painting the rusting gate elements.

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

Without exception - houses - both individual and in estates in the village of Abbeyshrule are presented in an exemplary fashion. There is obviously a long tradition of pride in the village's homes. The good community spirit is further evidenced by the assistance you give to people who are, through ill health, age or otherwise, not in a position to fully maintain their own immediate area. Your mowing is done with bio chip cutting machines. We note that you are still working with Longford County Council and the developer on the unfinished part of Corncrake Meadow. Well

done on this initiative and its results on the ground. The road surfaces require final surfacing, and at present manhole covers protrude from the road. There is a large area of unsurfaced road in the inner part of the estate. Last year's adjudicator suggested that the fenced area could be planted with trees or other plants material. We would concur with this suggestion. The delightful shrub encircled bilingual name signs for this estate were much admired.

You list a few projects under this heading which you have already listed in more appropriate category headings – such as the repainting works to various buildings other than houses. Likewise with the reference to the Rustic Inn development - which we have credited under the Built Environment section.

It would probably be churlish to specify particular houses as standout examples of excellent maintenance, but it is difficult not to mention the lock house as well as the two-storey grey house with red door opposite the Rustic Inn. Tremendous gardens were noticed along the viaduct road opposite the bee colony. We would also commend the excellent presentation of all the estate houses in both estates.

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

Last year's adjudicator suggested that a notice in relation to wheelchair access to the Abbey should be placed close to the roadside cemetery gate. We concur with this suggestion, as one has to negotiate a non-accessible gate before one can read this notice. The notice is not legible from the public road, which means that the less mobile visitor may abandon the idea of visiting the Abbey ab initio due to the apparent lack of wheelchair access.

The Bog Road bog oak sign is new since this adjudicator's last visit and was admired. The Bog Road approach could be improved by the painting of a grey galvanised gate just outside the speed limit signs. A large recessed area fronting a grey building (which itself has good red doors and window surrounds) needs attention in the same location. A seemingly abandoned trailer has parked in this area. It would be helpful if the window area in the small concrete roadside shed could be improved. The road lining at the Bog Road junction would benefit from repainting before it fades any further. Road marking at the ramps near the canal bridge also require repainting, as do centre line road markings on the Colehill approach.

Under the Residential Streets and Housing areas you mention the fact that you have cleaned, repaired and replaced all signs throughout the village. You also mention this under this - its appropriate category heading. We credit you with this project work under this category heading. The newly planted shrubs and trees on Colehill Road will - as you say continue to enhance that final approach to the village.

You will have to update your beautiful blue village sign on the Ballymahon approach with Tidy Towns information, as you have not credited yourselves with your success in 2013 thereon. We also understand that you have achieved success in a Canadian-based competition, and your plaques outside the church still do not acknowledge this -all in due season.

Concluding Remarks:

Abbeyshrule has shone nationally in recent times. You are a good and hardworking community and we wish you continued success this year and into the future. We admire your enthusiasm and energy - across all age groups. Go n-eiri libh i rith na blianta ata romhainn!

Note

Shortly after our visit you had an uninvited guest descend from the sky -a helicopter crash right beside the banks of the canal. We wish to convey our sympathy to the owners of the Rustic Inn - whose newly developed property was damaged during this episode. . It is almost ironic that you mention the further development of the Rustic Inn inter alia 'facilitating pilots from the airfield' under the category heading Residential Streets and Housing areas! We were however very relieved to hear that nobody had been injured. Reading the media reports we noted that this was also your attitude. We heard no complaints from the people of Abbeyshrule from any sources in the media as to the unfortunate event. Once again the spirit of the people of the village shines through. We know that you will repair the damage efficiently and without fuss and we wish you the very best after this setback.

Second Round Adjudication:

It was a great pleasure for this adjudicator to visit Abbeyshrule again. The village looked stunning on a lovely, sunny Friday. It was a reminder of how well the village looked when Abbeyshrule Tidy Villages Association was the National Award Winner in 2012. Your new 3 year plan made interesting reading. With a population of under 200 you have made terrific progress during your 34 years as an entrant in the Tidy Towns Competition. It truly is a total community effort and the community has every right to be proud of their results. The new Junior Tidy Towns – the Tidy Tweens Committee, made a significant contribution which is illustrated in your excellent and comprehensive application. Among your most effective supporters are your schools – Taghshinny National School and St Sinneachs National School, Colahill together with the 2 second level schools. Although not part of Abbeyshrule physically, their support is a testament to the wider community spirit in that part of Longford.

In addition to your entry form which is concise and focussed this adjudicator found your map easy to follow and the folder with photos, letters, samples of newsletters, etc. very informative and a great help to the adjudicator. You were quick to respond to the prompting of the Tidy Towns Unit to involve younger members of the community in your Tidy Towns activities through the formation of your Tidy Tweens Committee. You are also commended for including recent residents of Abbeyshrule in your association.

Your association is one of the best structured and motivated that this adjudicator has yet encountered and this should not be a surprise given your veterans status in the Tidy Towns Competition. You also have an impressive list of support agencies and bodies and friends beyond your local community. The Cistercian Abbey is the iconic feature of Abbeyshrule so it was with interest that one read of the aerial survey commissioned by Longford County Council last April. Please tell us more about it in next year's entry. A village of your small population is almost entirely dependent on those with the financial resources to preserve and enhance such a monument. The previous adjudicator commented elsewhere in this report on the lack of progress made in terms of conservation work. This should not be taken as a criticism of Abbeyshrule Tidy Villages Association which has neither the resources nor the authority to carry out conservation work. That is the responsibility of the custodians of the Abbey.

The 2 new housing estates are additions to the village since this adjudicator's last visit. The community garden and allotments were admired. Your 7 bridges also make their own statements. Undergrounding the telephone cable at the River Inny Bridge is a significant advance. The other bridges all look very well. The village was spotless. A cleaning team were making sure of that. The Bring Centre was clean and tidy. The previous adjudicator commented adversely on the design of street furniture, particularly seating and public lighting. Again, the reader should note that this is not a criticism of Abbeyshrule Tidy Villages Association. The comments are intended for the local authority which is responsible for street lighting. Neither the seating nor the street lighting were this year's projects. The seating got favourable comments from both of last year's adjudicators.

The playground was very busy. The laughter and other happy sounds that emanated from it made the investment in it more than worthwhile. Abbeyshrule is well endowed by nature which gave it a lush landscape, a bog and the River Inny to which a man made canal was added together with bridges for it and for the river. Oh, yes, a viaduct was also added and, later, a runway and associated airfield structures. The built heritage ranges from the Abbey, the venerable newly painted Waterways Ireland canal buildings, the very modern church to the residences in the new housing estates. Abbeyshrule is dynamic, changes and grows. The opposite would be to remain static, stagnate and die. Your planting/landscaping complements the old and allows the new to shine through. The use of bog oak in village signage and as part of the tableau at the entrance to Corncrake Meadows continues this link of the old and the new. Graphics are used throughout the village to great effect. The murals on the old factory are eye-catching. The plaque beside the Royal Canal with the chorus from Brendan Behan's song "On the banks of the Royal Canal" on it is apt. The wildlife display boards are colourful and informative. Well done to the Tidy Tweens for their Mythical Giant. Very imaginative.

The Bee Beard Log Hive and the camouflaging of the disused house are creative and imaginative. Some Tidy Towns groups find the Wildlife Category and also the Sustainable Waste Categories challenging. Not Abbeyshrule Tidy Villages Association. Your ducks are plentiful and polite. Bees thrive in your orchard with its "keep out – bees busy" sign. You have 2 separate bird and wildlife sanctuaries. You substantially increased the number of water butts. Your web site has been updated with advice on saving water/energy and preventing food waste. The Rustic Inn is playing its role in disposing of its food waste in an environmentally efficient way. These are just a selection of initiatives chosen randomly by this adjudicator. This adjudicator has nothing to add to the previous adjudicator's comments in the Residential Streets category and endorses the comment that residences in Abbeyshrule are presented in an exemplary fashion. Comments in the Approach Roads category are also endorsed.

Keep up the good work Abbeyshrule Tidy Villages Association. You have enhanced your village and made further progress in the Tidy Towns Competition. We look forward to receiving your entry in the 2016 Tidy Towns Competition in due course.