

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **LANESBORO**
County : **LONGFORD**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	26
The Built Environment	40	24	23
Landscaping	40	23	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	5	4
TOTAL MARK	300	174	170

Lanesboro, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed questionnaire and map - they were both useful. The work carried out in the past year must be commended, however a 3-5 year plan setting out objectives is still required. It should look at both the potential and problems in each of the areas and this will give direction to the Committee.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

This was generally good. The area beside the yellow shop required shielding off. The Carpark was neat and tidy with some well maintained litter bins. However some fencing was broken. The ladies toilet was basic and required a cleanup. The Castrol GTX building required upgrading. A number of well presented and signed commercial premises such as Samantha, Clarkes and Flahertys contrasted with others that would benefit from more traditional shopfronts. The Police Station and the School looked well. The Ceard Scoil walls required repainting and the Fire Station could have done with a coat of paint. Longford Mushrooms would benefit from the use of creepers eg Clematis, Polygonum or even Convolvulus over the fence to shield it from view. The Maxol Garage looked well.

LANDSCAPING

There were some lovely hanging baskets evident on the main street. Additional baskets would look well. The use of native rather than exotic species should be encouraged and generally one colour in a landscaped bed makes a greater impact than multi colour. Well done for the effort made by those in the housing estates who have landscaped their areas. The River bank landscaping looks well and is neat - additional trees and wildflowers would enhance the area further.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The amenity areas on the Shannon were a hive of activity of the day of judging. There are no information boards at the bird sanctuary which is a pity - the amenity is excellent. Several of the conifers- shelter belt between here and the carpark are dying/dead and need replacing. A wildflower meadow here would enhance the area. The entrance to the woods on the Rathcline road perhaps could be considered another habitat that could be investigated for wildlife.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little litter noted on the day of judging - well done. A good number of bins were well maintained.

TIDINESS

Tidiness was reasonable - a good number of road signs need replacing and there were a few untidy areas around the town that

required cutting back/tidying up eg two areas beside the power station, the area at Churchview and beside the yellow shop.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Houses on both the Rathcline and Ballymahon roads were well presented. The green Estate was nice though some weedy areas were spotted in gutters, at the base of trees and under benches. The open space at Church view should be considered to be grown as a managed wildflower meadow and include information boards. It is a pity to have Lawsons Cypress in front of the native hedgerow area.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Rathcline road had a nice stone wall - there were no litter or weeds seen and the grass was well trimmed back. Some lights needed replacing. The approach sign on the Ballymahon road needed repainting - and the children crossing sign needed replacing. The Longford road was well presented with a nice stone wall, and well cut back, however the speed limit signs require maintenance. Selective cutting of verges would encourage wildflowers to grow on the approach roads.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

This is a very busy town and perhaps could consider traffic calming. The Shannon is a huge amenity and the judges look forward to your development plan next year. Good luck.