

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **LONGFORD TOWN**
County : **LONGFORD**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	21	--
The Built Environment	40	21	--
Landscaping	40	18	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	9	--
Litter Control	40	11	--
Tidiness	20	9	--
Residential Areas	30	15	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	--
General Impression	10	4	--
TOTAL MARK	300	126	--

Longford, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome back to the competition after a years absence. Thank you for your completed questionnaire, however a map would also have been appreciated. There is a new look to the competition with emphasis on different aspects such as wildlife, tidiness and the developmental approach. As part of the new competition, a 3-5 year development plan is required. This should be clear, concise and set out objectives over the next 3-5 years. Liaison with all relevant bodies is important. The plan should be an action plan and set out targets that can be achieved. Best of luck. Do not compare the mark achieved with your previous mark as the competition is set out differently.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

SuperValu was well painted. A number of premises were well presented in Longford. These include the Veterinary Clinic at the Square, Mystique, Herterich, Ward Pharmacy, Fallons, Torc Coffee Bar, John Greggs and the Unique Boutique was bright and cheerful. The Railway Station was well painted and there was some nice planting and with no litter to be seen it had a very tidy appearance. Those that could consider improvement include; Around a Pound, Colettes Guys and Dolls, Wayout Fashions and Luigis. In general, the number of excellently presented shop fronts was equalled by those that either needed refurbishment/repainting and/or more traditional signage. The Post Office was well presented as was P. Kellys. On Richmond Street - the Distillery, the Bistro and Tangled Web were well presented. Longford Credit Union was also well presented. On Church Street - there is a fine row of houses and the Church of Ireland is impressive. The Methodist Church is very simple as is the Memorial Masonic Hall. The wall at the side of Longford Vocational School badly needs repainting. The County Council Offices on Great Water Street while neatly kept would benefit from some colour in the form of hanging baskets or such like. The Camlin Court Hotel could have been brightened up and there was some litter outside the frontage. The Sports and Leisure Complex looked well, Longford Vocational School, Longford Textiles would benefit from climbing plants over the wiring such as Honeysuckle or Clematis. The Fire Station looked well. Many of the premises in the IDA Centre looked well, especially the Oisín Electronics and the new Building at the end. Paths required weeding. St. Mels school needed cutting back outside. The National school on St. Mels Street needed the railings repainted. The Library and Teagasc were neat and well presented. The Shopping Centre and Carpark were overall tidy and well presented. The Anvil Bar, the Red Rose Cafe, Fuchsia Design, Elegant Interiors were among the well presented premises on Dublin Street and St. Mels Cathedral looked well. Scoil Mhuire needed some tree or shrub planting. The hospital will benefit from the trees when matured. The road up to the golf course needs attention and the golf club house itself requires

cutting back.

LANDSCAPING

A greater number of window boxes are needed throughout both the town area and the residential area. Even one persons effort can make an impact as seen on Great Water Street where someone has put out wooden window boxes. Newly planted trees required maintenance. A concerted effort to draw up a landscaping plan and implement it as well as maintain the planting would be welcome. One colour/species makes a greater impact than a myriad of colours.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There are numerous areas around Longford town that could encourage wildlife and be developed as wildlife amenity areas. The river and the canal provide habitats that are rich in wildlife. A survey should be undertaken to assess the fauna, flora and other aspects of the Longford area. This could be carried out in conjunction with schoolchildren as well as local amenity groups. Other grassy /amenity areas around the town and estates could be considered as areas to encourage wildflowers or area in which to plant native trees and shrubs. When landscaping, think native rather than exotic. Trees must always be maintained, as side shoots may need removing or the grass may need to be removed from around their base in order to allow proper and strong growth.

LITTER CONTROL

Littering of the town was sporadic with some areas very clean and other especially on the outskirts with quite a scattering of litter. Bins should be available in all areas including housing estates. These need to be well maintained and emptied regularly.

TIDINESS

Longford did not have a tidy appearance on the day of adjudication. There are several premises which require refurbishment. The appearance of long grass and uncut areas on the approach roads, as well as weeds in gutters created an untidy appearance. Some of the housing estates were tidy. A great sense of pride is required in all townspeople.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

These varied in presentation but overall, private houses were well presented. Walls required painting outside St Brigids Terrace though the houses themselves were well maintained. Houses on Battery road look very well. Templemichael Terrace was okay but the green area could be used/landscaped. Bollards and wire fencing needed repair. The new Estate at St. Emers looked well though colour co-ordinated hanging baskets/tubs such as orange/yellow combinations would look better than purple/pinks. The planting of trees at Owen Park was varied in presentation Could the green areas be used for something other than green areas - wildflowers or other landscaping. Trees would certainly improve the estate. Deancurragh was well presented and the

houses on St. Mels road were tidy. Ardnacassa Lawns and Midara were well presented. It is inappropriate to put annual planting around the base of trees as it competes for nutrients and moisture. The road needed repair. The houses out the Dublin road were also well presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Kilashee approach road required cutting back and was not tidy. A number of the industrial premises were reasonably presented with cut back areas and some planting such as Flexibrass, Tool Centre, Hourigan Engineering and others required attention. The guttering was free of weeds in many areas except up nearer to the town. These featured in some of the back areas. There was also a scattering of litter. Harbour Row is very untidy. All road and streets were well signed. The Lisduff road required weeding and cutting back. Ballinalee approach road was reasonable. Dead trees should be removed and/or replaced. The Clondra road would benefit greatly from some tree planting. Some of the backlanes off the Connaught road required weeds removed. An area with debris on the Dublin road should be cleared. It needs to be tidied up in general.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The relevant bodies in Longford town need to sit down and sort out how the town can be improved in future. Some commercial premises are making a good effort. The education regarding litter is a slow process but hopefully, the day will come when litter will be a thing of the past in the town. Well done for the work undertaken to date and best of luck with future efforts. The use of the Irish language is to be encouraged and this should be kept in mind when erecting new signs/ information boards.