

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 16-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	27
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	18
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	6	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>178</b>

## **Lanesboro, County Longford**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The town was hosting the Environmental School on the day of judging. Despite this the area around the Shannon looked well, however there was a lot of traffic and the road was busy.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The main buildings were generally well presented with some displaying plants and other not. The Garda Station looked clean and the Ceard Scoil was fine except the some of the brickwork requires attention. The school near the ESB station was also well presented, as was the small church beside it. The Maxol garage on the Ballymahon road had some fine planters, as did the Church. The School near the Shannon where the Art Exhibition was being held looked well and St. Mary's Hall is well painted. The National Irish Bank should be well commended on its hanging baskets. The Office for the Summer School was nicely painted and had a lot of information in the window. Clarkes, Samanthas and Caseys also looked well. Regans solicitors was well painted – well done to all involved. It is good to see that the Tourism Co-operative is active with the weekly lotto. On the outskirts Lanesboro Mushrooms Ltd. Looked clean (only a couple of pieces of paper), however it would benefit from shrubs/trees or climbers in front of the wire fencing. A problem exists at the carpark. The toilets are in a poor state with a lot of graffiti evident. Surely, once a year they could be painted. It was embarrassing, particularly with the number of visitor camper vans and the Summer School in operation. The fence beside it is in poor condition and the signpost is very rusty. In fact a visitor complained to me how bad the toilets were!

### **LANDSCAPING**

Incidental planting which was mainly the responsibility of individual premises and residences looked well. The planters in front of St. Mary's Hall were attractive. Prepare them earlier next year and they should perform better. Stone walls are evident on the Rathcline wall and this had many attractive wall plants. Do allow and encourage wall plants on the new stone wall which is being built on the Longford road. The planting along the Shannon was well weeded and the grass was well cut back. Take care not to feel pressurised in overlandscaping the area, as it must be naturally integrated into the local environment.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The Environmental Summer School is a wonderful idea and the proposal to extend it to a year round activity is

commendable. The range of speakers, topics and field trips will help to develop an awareness of the richness of the area. The duck reserve was fine and the surrounding area was being landscaped/reseeded. Please, again do not overlandscape an area such as this – native trees, shrubs and plants only.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter reared its ugly head in a number of places in Lanesboro which was a pity and it was not due to the traffic or the Summer School. Churchview had quite an amount of litter as did the road going up to Churchview. There were also a scattering of litter in a number of other places on the main street. Litterbins were fairly visible though some were grubby and required cleaning and/or replacing ( e.g. Ballymahon road)

## **TIDINESS**

Despite the cars, summer school etc. the village was quite tidy. Flags gave a festive atmosphere and signs etc. were there only because of the summer school. Grubby signage and the litter as well as mown grass which had not been collected properly near Churchview did detract from the appearance of the village.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The houses on Rathcline road were particularly good and well presented – well done. The new houses beside Churchview also looked well, however Churchview itself was a bit disappointing.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The Longford road is reasonable though grass which had not been collected further out was yellowing. Towards the village, the wall will look well when complete. The Ballymahon approach is cut back well. The 30mph signs need replacing or cleaning. The Rathcline road looked very well – there were a few weeds in the gutter, though these tend to be the exception.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Lanesboro is in a wonderful setting on the banks of the Shannon. It is establishing itself as an environmental centre. This should be taken into consideration when planning the developments/ landscaping for the Tidy Towns. You have a number of experts who are knowledgeable about the village and the Shannon, and advice from them might be of good use to future developments. Do tackle the litter and the toilets.