

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	21	21
The Built Environment	40	21	21
Landscaping	40	19	19
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	10
Litter Control	40	14	13
Tidiness	20	9	9
Residential Areas	30	16	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	18
General Impression	10	4	4
TOTAL MARK	300	132	130

Longford Town, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your application and comments. The map really requires street names and information otherwise it is very difficult to read. The impression of the town was that it is very busy and that traffic management is a problem as well as parking. At least it shows that it is a thriving business town. A committee does need to be formed and to sit down and formulate a simple plan for the town for the next 3/5 years. Good luck with the process.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The golf club is a fine building though the road approaching it requires attention. Mount Carmel Hospital has some nice planting and the school close by was neat and tidy. The façade of St. Mels Cathedral seems to be affected by pollution or lichen growth – keep a close watch on this. The Railway Station is nicely painted green though some parts of it will require repainting next year. There is a good presentation of plants. The shops and commercial premises are presented in variable fashion. In general the shops in the main shopping areas have made an effort with their facades and some have some fine baskets and planters e.g. Valentines, Abrakebabra and The Longford Arms Hotel. Down the side streets and on the outskirts of the town premises were dull and in some cases quite dirty exceptions here included Grey Wizard Design and The Tangled Web. It also seemed to be town of the missing letters e.g. Turners on Earl street, Hertzreich and others. The Longford Slashers and the Backstage Theatre is a fine building, however a number of dead trees require removal. The County Longford Sports and Leisure Complex is another fine building and landscaping here is commendable. The new Tourist Office beside Supervalu is spacious and contains a great deal of information. A good few pieces of litter had blown in the door and this looked poor. An hourly sweep is required on days when it is windy. A number of prominent buildings would benefit from hanging baskets or planters though they themselves were fine in appearance i.e. the County Council Offices, the Camlin Court Hotel, the Library, Teagasc and the Shopping Centre. The Credit Union is a fine and interesting building making a statement. The new cinema looks well. Industrial shops and units on Connaught Street would also benefit from colour. The Townparks Industrial Estate was quite untidy though was bustling with business. Premises had basically not made any effort at all. ON the Battery road, the Fianna Fail HQ had a poor appearance, Mels Training Centre was better and both the VEC Administrative Offices (freshly painted) and the Garda Station looked very well.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping as mentioned before is a bit of an ad hoc affair. Some premises take great care and there are pockets of fine landscaping in estates, at the amenity park and Dun Ui Chongaille. A more co-ordinated approach is required looking at the needs of each area, considering a framework of trees and shrubs and also low maintenance plants. The installation on the Dublin roundabout looks really well. It conveys a message of boldness and pride.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The amenity area and park look well and encourages wildlife in the river. Take care to ensure that no litter gets stuck in the longer weedy area. The strip along the road requires attention though it looks as though work is presently being carried out here. Bird tables and feeders should also be encouraged in domestic houses and schools. The use of wildflowers seed mixes could be considered for designated areas on the outskirts of the town. An educational programme with members of the newly formed committee addressing schools would also help to inform and educate.

LITTER CONTROL

The litter campaign seems to be working though it is slow progress. Significant amounts of litter were only noticed by the Centra close to Eoin Park. Other areas include the canal walk and near some of the industrial units. There seemed to be a great improvement in the Main Street. Litterbins should be available in all places where people congregate. Longford is part of the Green Schools campaign and this should help to develop greater awareness particularly among the younger people.

TIDINESS

Longford does not look a particularly tidy town. The busy streets, the eclectic mix of shop and building facades, the long grass on the approach roads and the litter (though less than last year) does not create a tidy appearance. As time progresses and a co-operative approach is implemented throughout the town, this will have an impact on the tidiness.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Estates can be divided into two categories – those that are private and those that are public. The difference in appearance is mainly down to the cost of maintenance. Private estates were generally neat and tidy in their approach, some with some fine landscaping e.g. Ardcassan and Midara. Many of the houses in Eoin Park however required repainting. There is not a great deal of litter and litterbins were not visible. Some of the residents had made a great effort in the provision of baskets and plants – well done.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach road from Dublin was well cut back and only a few pieces of litter were noted. The approach road from Ballinalee and the Kilashee roads were better than the Clondra road, which had no lead in at all. The industrial units on the west side of town tend to give the approaches an untidy air. Battery road has a fine sweep of trees and leading on the bypass which was also well presented.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Since a committee has not been formed and a plan has not been submitted, it would be unfair to list suggestions as to what you should do. You know your limitations, your resources. The UDC are commendable in showing an interest and hopefully will be able to stimulate further interest from both the business and private communities. Encourage participation through incentives/competitions (inter estate) and through schools. Longford is a fine, busy town which is growing fast. A co-ordinated approach to its future is required. Best of luck