

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-2000

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2000 | Mark Awarded 1999 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 23 | 21 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 25 | 21 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 21 | 19 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 11 | 10 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 16 | 14 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 11 | 9 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 17 | 16 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 19 | 18 |
| General Impression | 10 | 5 | 4 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 148 | 132 |

Longford, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Longford is welcome to the first Tidy Towns Competition of the third millennium. The UDC are thanked for their submission and the working paper on Tidy Towns. We wish you well in the achievement of your objectives and, in particular, the formation of a Tidy Towns Committee to liaise between local groups and the UDC. Your plan for year one is admirable and the organisation of residential estate Litter Leagues together with a Shopfront Competition and public information seminars should be fruitful in establishing a dedicated Tidy Town Group in the town. The Market Square redevelopment together with off street carparking in backland areas will make a significant contribution to the overall townscape of Longford.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The new Fire Station looks especially well. St. Josephs Temperance Hall is an important building in the townscape and so should be presented to the highest of standards. It has some fine traditional features which should be retained upon refurbishment. Dublin Street has a fine combination of shopfronts. Hopefully all will be presented to a high standard featured by most. The railway bridge at the bottom of Earl Street should be refurbished. Mollaghans Shopping Centre is nicely presented. Heaton's is another important building in the townscape and it could be better presented. Durkin's looks well. The SuperValu premises in the Market Square enhances this area significantly. The bright colours of terraced houses and business properties on the Connaught road are appealing and the colour scheme should be retained when those in need of painting are being refurbished (Richmond Street). Some small sections of the County Council offices could also be improved with painting. The new development opposite the cinema looks well as does the cinema of course. Both the Garda Station and the Lyons Keenan Kilmade properties are an excellent introduction to the town from the N4. The advertisement hoarding on the building on the corner of Little Water Street should be removed if possible as it is visually obtrusive on this important focal point of the townscape. The new Market Square redevelopment should feature a more pedestrian focus.

LANDSCAPING

The stretch of hedgerow along the roadside from Scoil Eimer towards the town is maturing nicely and will be a valuable wildlife habitat if it is properly managed. Neat grass verges complement wonderfully the maturing shrubberies and trees which mark the entrance to the town from the Granard road. The traffic island outside the church could feature containerised plants. The planters at the traffic lights on the

main street are not successful in creating a good visual impact, the plants need to overflow their containers so that the latter are almost hidden. Such flower displays are generally more successful when containers are grouped together in twos or threes.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The small bridge on the Mall Walk at College Park could be made to look more attractive and the wire and post fencing here should be repaired. The parkland area at the Sports and Leisure complex looks especially well. Let us have details of the activities carried out by the Canal Amenity Group for next year's competition. We are particularly interested in the objectives of the group. Other possible activities under this heading would be to identify wildlife habitats in the town, for example apart from wetland habitats, there would also be woodland and hedgerow habitats. It is important to identify possible threats to these and take protective measures.

LITTER CONTROL

Well done to the Urban District Council on the litter bin promotion 2000. It is good to know that street sweeping takes place seven days a week. Litter control was particularly weak on a wide grass verge on the Killashee road. There was a fair amount of litter along the main street also.

TIDINESS

An extensive stretch of corrugated sheeting forming the boundary of a large site leading up to the bridge over the rail line looked unattractive and hopefully will be replaced by a better quality one in due time. Derelict properties, particularly those at the top of Great Water Street present a problem under this heading. Could these have their window apertures boarded and maintained well painted until redevelopment under the Derelict Sites Act.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The terrace of four houses opposite the school on the Dublin entrance to the town (St. Mary's Terrace) could be cleaned or could feature a co-ordinated colour scheme. This could also be considered for Keons Terrace and St. Patrick's Terrace. The residential development next to Scoil Eimer is being maintained to an excellent standard. A namestone should now be provided at its entrance. A number of roadside boundaries to residential properties along the Mall walk need to be cleaned or painted. The new residential units at St. Mels View look particularly well. The two storey terraced residential units from St. Mels View to the church look appealing with their colour scheme. The shoemaker sculpture in a residential development beyond the railway yard is imaginative. Some weatherstained facades and boundary walls along Bannon

Terrace could be improved with cleaning or painting.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

It was good to note the nameplates on all streets and lanes. The Killashee approach road and entrance to the town is unattractive. Verges are not being managed. A large site with dumped materials looks poor and the railway bridge looks shabby. Many posts of sign posts, particularly on the traffic island on the Post Office need to be refurbished. We look forward to the ducting of service cables and the removal of ugly service poles.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Longford is a busy town which has seen some interesting redevelopments in recent times. A little more attention to detail is required particularly in the presentation of traffic islands.