

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Longford Town**

Ref: **664**

County: **Longford**

Mark: **215**

Category: **E**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	35
The Built Environment	40	30	28
Landscaping	40	30	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	20
Litter Control	40	26	23
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	22	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	22
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>192</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Longford Town is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your excellent submission, it was most illuminating and helpful for adjudication. The committee is obviously more than aware of all aspects of their heritage. Your plan makes excellent reading and we wish you every success in its implementation. It is refreshing to see a plan that has inclusions for public art in addition to the built environment / heritage buildings. Longford Town has been considered for awards under a number of headings.

### The Built Environment:

Many buildings were admired during adjudication. The newly refurbished St. Joseph's Temperance Hall is a wonderful introduction to the town centre as indeed is St. Mel's Cathedral. There are a substantial number of excellent shopfronts with good signage both along the Main Street and at the top of Killashee Street and developments in the Market Square, particularly Sandy Lane and the Harbour Point development lifts this area of the town substantially. The building stock on the Main Street is comprised mainly of handsome three storey buildings, many of which are beautifully presented although not that many have retained their traditional sash windows. Both Valentines and Kennys were admired and the black and white colour scheme to the Longford Arms Hotel was especially admired as was Anallys Hotel. The Auto Centre which is located on the corner of Main Street and Great Water Street is an important focal point in the streetscape, not to mention the townscape due to its high profile, at the time of adjudication it looked dreadful and let down the

entire area. Some properties along Little Water Street together with a number of sites were underdeveloped and in need of attention; no doubt this area will be redeveloped within the next few years. The Mini-Market at College Park could have been better presented in respect of its door, signage, and storage units, all of which are unattractive and untidy in appearance. The new Cuirt an Óir development is being considered for an award.

an award.

### **Landscaping:**

Landscaping around the town is really wonderful. The bypass road looked particularly well with neatly trimmed and grassed verges backed by mature trees and young trees and mature hedgerow. This pattern was repeated at several venues around the town. The roundabout with the sculpture was admired also in respect of its landscaping (the Saw Mill junction), however the grass verge from here leading to the town did not look quite as crisp but could not be described as problematic. Container planting was both colourful and profuse and was noted at several venues, particularly in the centre. The public library was nicely landscaped as was the Teagasc premises.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

We note the provision of the bird and bat boxes at several locations including the canal, the river and a number of green areas. Cognisance has also been taken of your wildlife panel which is both an attractive feature and of course informative.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control was very good on adjudication day, well done. A light scattering was noted on verges on the bypass road. This seemed to be Take-Away litter and so was probably thrown from a passing car. Litter control was a little weak on the entrance to the Longford Shopping Centre from the Main Street and also behind Pennys. A small amount of litter was noted in the long grass at Classic Design Fireplaces. It might be a good idea to locate a further litter bin here. A dirty overflowing litter bin on a pole in College Park was noted. Your litter control activities overall are informed and thorough and for a town your size this shortfall is not a major problem.

### **Tidiness:**

The recycling point beside the Library was tidy, well done. We note the removal of an outsized advertisement hoarding at the kiosk, perhaps the one now on the Nail File premises could be removed and another near the cinema. A number of derelict sites around the town are problematic. No doubt these will see redevelopment over the next few years. Some weather stained walls in College Park looked quite untidy.

### **Residential Areas:**

Tree planting in verges at the Woodland residential estate was admired and indeed many residential developments are presented to the highest standard. The gentle colour scheme of St. Bridget's Terrace looked well, perhaps similar treatment could be given to properties at the end of Great Water Street and Bannon Street. Boundary treatment is necessary at the Dun Darragh residential development. St. Mary's Terrace on Dublin Street is drab looking in appearance with grey facades, perhaps a colour scheme could be featured for window and door apertures or flower displays in hanging baskets provided. Harbour View looked quite well although a few properties need improvements to their boundary walls. Harbour Row looked well also.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Some fingerpost signage was in need of refurbishment and these included fingerposts for Abbeyshrule and Ballynacarigy. Car parks generally looked quite good and Lidl's one was admired. The Town Parks Industrial Estate was presented to a mixed standard. Some properties had a fine presentation but some underdeveloped sites were noted also. A new development in the latter industrial estate, on the Lanesborough Road, is being considered for an award. Wirescape along the Main Street and in the centre in general is visually obtrusive and will hopefully be ducted in due course. The footpath surface to the roadside of the wall at the greyhound park should be replaced by a properly surfaced footpath and the fencing here could either be planted with a climbing plant for greater enclosure, Firethorn is suggested, or with a wall of an appropriate scale.

### **General Impression:**

The overall impression of Longford Town is favourable. The town is making great strides in the competition which is a reflection of redevelopment within the town. It is good to note that your heritage and amenity facilities are not being compromised.