

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Longford** Ref: **484**
County: **Longford** Mark: **293**
Category: **E** Date(s): **29/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	41
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	42
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	37
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33
TOTAL MARK	450	293

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Your adjudicator welcomes Longford to the Tidy Towns competition for 2014. Thank you for your entry and supporting documentation. The adjudicator felt that a small drawn map of Longford town indicating the projects that you want included in the judging would be helpful. You have an active committee of 50 and are fortunate to have 8 workers to assist with maintenance of existing projects and to assist on any further projects as they arise. You get support from local agencies and businesses through sponsorship and other assistance as it is required from time to time. You have a comprehensive communication system within the community and you also engage well with the local schools. Taking part in the competition has created more community involvement. It has created a social outlet where people meet, greet and work. It has given everyone a sense of pride in their community. Well done on your work in the competition

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

Longford has many areas of superb buildings throughout the streetscape. The market square area looks very impressive. The tress and containers of flowers enhance this area greatly. Season's restaurant on the corner adorned with flowers was also noted. St Mel's Cathedral was noted as work is still on-going here but near completion. This grey limestone building which will have a new landscaped entrance will enhance this area when completed. The Church of Ireland and grounds were also admired. The houses in this area were well presented in different colours. The Mall Park amenity is one of the busiest areas in the town as it provides activities for all ages. The playground is a super amenity and so too are the many walks through the park for leisure strolls. The facilities of the Longford sports and leisure centre were also noted. The location of the Mall on the Camlin River provides a lovely area for picnics. Tara's treasures in its superb bight yellow and red surrounds looked bright and cheery. Longford Arms hotel, the Courthouse and Edward J Valentine bar are all superb buildings and added great interest to the streetscape. Well done on your work completed on Chan Elle. Connolly barracks restoration was also visited and admired. This is an important part of the town's history and you are applauded for the work completed here. It is great to see they are being used.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

There are many areas of superb landscaping which caught the adjudicator's eye. On the Athlone road entrance two splendid landscaped beds were noticed at the start of the road but the wall between beds looked dull and needed enhancing. The Longford road entrance roundabout was admired. At the entrance to Laurel Lodge nursing home nice landscaping was noticed. On the Dublin road side of the town there are some superb trees that lined the road. The landscaping at Oakland's was also admired. The town centre was superbly landscaped with lovely colourful displays that really lit up this area. There were lovely hanging baskets and containers dotted that brought colour to

the streetscape. The newly planned landscaping at St Mel's cathedral will enhance this area of the town when completed. The Mall has superb areas of trees and landscaped beds. Some dead trees however were noticed. There are some lovely pieces of sculpture in the park that add to the landscape. The two black landscaped containers stood out somewhat however the adjudicator was not sure if this type of container suits the surroundings. The landscaping at major well which the Mall workers, college park residents and Tidy Towns group constructed in association with the Town Council was admired. This wishing well style contained nice colourful plants. The blind mans walk sculpture also added hard landscaping to this area.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

There is no shortage of wildlife areas and amenities in Longford. There is an abundance of trees, hedges and stone walls which are natural habitats and also the river Camlin provides a natural habitat. Communities are encouraged to host events that celebrate and raise awareness of local species and habitats. This should include the school children and the wider community. There are many walking routes through the mall and this makes a superb location for such an event to take place. Many communities have local wildlife experts who would be welcomed to give their time to help raise awareness among the community on the wildlife in their area. This could be an organised dawn chorus or just a walk through the park. The importance would be that an expert would be on hand to educate the community on the many species and habitats of the area.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaíthe:

This category has caused problems for groups in the past. The main aim here is to reduce the amount of waste produced in the community in the first place. You seem to be making progress here through the green homes initiative. It is really about changing the mind-set of people on reducing and handling waste. Food waste is one area that savings can be made. It is not the food alone but the packing that comes with food creates a lot of waste that could be reduced. It is recommended that groups take one or two areas where waste could be reduced and document any work done like attending workshops and ensure you include all details with your Tidy Towns entry form. Rainwater harvesting at the Mall helps water the plants in this area. All households should be encouraged to harvest rainwater where possible. This is very topical at the moment with the introduction of water meters. Well done to all schools in Longford for obtaining green flags status. The local authorities prevention network website have added a specific Tidy Towns page to this website providing practical tips and advice on sustainable waste and resource management. The website address is <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>. This hopefully will be of benefit to groups.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done on your plan on controlling litter in the town. You are working with the schools and the local authority and the wider community on methods of reducing litter in the town. This plan appears to be working well. Your rating in the IBAL league is also very encouraging. You are also fortunate to have dedicated workers to assist in this project. At the mall on adjudication day no major areas of litter were noticed even with the large amounts of people using this area. The greatest area of untidiness noted was weed growth at kerbs. Some boundary walls are in need of painting. Road signs need cleaning. The mini roundabout sign on battery road needs straightening. The unused petrol pumps at side of town centre distracts somewhat here.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

Well done on your annual gardens competition. This is a splendid way to encourage people to take ownership of their estates and maintain them. Rewarding them for their efforts achieved is a bonus. Many superb residences were noted and admired. The streetscape had many variations in houses but all blended well and added their own charm to the streetscape. The housing areas too were well presented with superb landscaping at entrances. The green areas were also well maintained. Some boundary walls could do with painting and some areas of weed growth were noted. Gardens were colourful and neat. Hanging baskets and window boxes brought colour to the town so too did the large tubs that were noted. There are some unoccupied houses in the town which is the norm in most towns and villages. This you are addressing well. The residents are commended for their work in this category.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

The approach roads had some areas of superb landscaping and some needing attention. The Dublin road is a nice tree lined road and had a nice welcome to Longford sign. The beginning of the Athlone road had some lovely landscaping with two beds and grass verges were neat and tidy. The cut grass should be removed. On the road from Drumlish the entrance sign needs cleaning. The roundabout here was admired. There was also some uneven road surfaces noted on the Dublin Road. All field gates should be painted in a uniform colour where possible. The mall had a nice timber railing at the entrance which looked well but one pole and rail was missing on left of the bridge.