

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **LOUGHREA**  
County : **GALWAY**  
Category : **D**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	34
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	30	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	23
Litter Control	40	23	22
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>203</b>

## **Loughrea, County Galway**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Loughrea Environmental Group must be commended for its approach to illegal dumping and discharges as well as for the town's "Walk through History". I found the walk helpful and easy to follow. Environmental controls cannot easily be implemented in a town that size so constant vigilance is the key. There are many fine features and extensive green areas such as the Fair Green which would be taken up by the Co Council. Their contribution is acknowledged.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The east end of Main Street appears to be the main focus of business for the town, with the west end interspersed with old style residences or former shops looking like shadows from the past.

I hope to find out the proposed use for the metal poles with hooked ends standing out uniformly from most buildings. The streetscape carries the usual volume of cables for the ESB and traffic east and west between Galway and Dublin is routed through your town. When it comes, the bypass will be welcomed. The Flower Market added colour and activity to Barrack Street

### **LANDSCAPING**

The cemeteries looked well and the Woodford Road to the Long Point passes the well tended grounds of the Western Health Board and St Brendan's Hospital. It is good to see that the care of this area has not diminished. The Long Point swimming area and surrounds were in use by large numbers of visitors, a lifeguard was on duty, and the whole area is very well presented. The Adult Education Centre catches the attention with its nice appearance.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The quality of the lake water is constantly monitored and this has enabled the award of Blue Flag status to the beach. There is a small flow of water through "The Walks", a tree shaded area which is a must on the "Walk through History".

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter free in most zones but it was detectable opposite the Cathedral and across from the toilets. The Long Point was litter free apart from an abandoned swimming costume on a seat. The double compartment black litter bins are very presentable. One wonders why it is necessary to have another smaller type also painted a mottled green and yellow. None of the bins were allowed to overflow.

### **TIDINESS**

The Moat at Dolphin Street is used a rubbish dump by the

uncaring and could do with a clean up. On a lesser scale this untidiness continues on "The Walks" with graffiti on most garden doors. The Old Railway Station is part of the "Walk through History". At present it is used as a dump for builders' waste and other detritus and is most unsightly.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Dolphin Street residents take pride in their area. Pity about the two abandoned cars across the road. Garrybreda Estate looked well tended and a newer estate is being built behind it.

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

Roadworks on the Dublin side cannot allow the best visual impact there but the entrances from Woodford and Galway are fine.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

There is a vibrancy about Loughrea which manifests itself in the many initiatives which have taken place there. In a town of that size and with the volume of traffic currently passing through (and possibly leaving their litter) maximising the advantages will always prove a challenge. So much has already been achieved on the web page, the audio tour and the Walk through History, it is certain that the trend is up.