

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **LUGGACURREN**
County : **LAOIS**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	30
The Built Environment	40	29	26
Landscaping	40	26	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	24
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	196	188

Luggacurren, Co. Laois

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Luggacurren is very welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed application and photographic record of work accomplished in the past year. It is a very good idea to have 'before' and 'after' photographs, so you should now take a set of 'after' photographs and keep these as a record of your achievements. The Millennium Horse Trough beside the pump is a very attractive item of street furniture. Good luck with your request to the County Council to provide footpaths. These, of course, are essential for a safe environment. Don't be too disheartened at the response to your request to have service poles removed and cables ducted, but do still keep this as part and parcel of your objectives. Luggacurren is a charming village with a rural character and an old world ambience and was a pleasure to adjudicate. Take care in future developments to retain your traditional character.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

All the major buildings of the village are presented to a high standard and all have been repainted in the past year. Congratulations, this is a fine achievement. The Old Forge looks particularly well and the grass around it is being managed well. The R.C. church, the school, the Post Office and the Health Centre all look well.

LANDSCAPING

A characteristic feature of Luggacurren is its good stock of mature, semi-mature and young trees. It is good to note the continuing tradition of planting trees for future generations. The stone flowerbeds look well also, however permanent planting is much more important. The two trees marking the entrance to the driveway to the church 'frame' the building beautifully.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The small stream is a very pleasant physical feature of the village and provides opportunities for both recreational amenity facilities such as a small green area with seating, etc. on the river bank and, of course, as an important wildlife area. Your plans to put in bird nesting boxes in trees sounds interesting. Perhaps the project could be taken a step further by doing a species count to establish species of birds. Other possible wildlife projects include hedgerow habitats and, of course, wetland habitats.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was very good, well done! It is important to send in details of your litter management programme. We need to know what activities you carry out in order to

achieve a high standard of litter control throughout the year and not just at competition time. It is appreciated that the village is small and so has few people to do so much work.

TIDINESS

The village has an overall appearance of tidiness, however one or two vacant buildings present a problem here. No doubt you are aware of this and representations have been made to the people concerned. Don't forget to remove all traces of building materials once construction work has ceased. The derelict house down by the stream has some fine architectural features which should be retained upon refurbishment. Perhaps this house could be incorporated into the amenity development of the banks of the stream. At the time of inspection the pallets were still in place at the gate leading to the old house on the stream.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential properties are generally well presented and there are some fine old farm houses in the environs of the village. The roadside boundary wall to one residential property at the 'southern' end of the village could be re-colourwashed. A new stone house has yet to have its garden developed. If residential units are to be built in the village in the future, particularly groups of houses, ensure that their location and design will complement the existing architectural heritage and overall ambience of the village rather than destroying it.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Well done on the presentation of stone walls. Stone walls are a characteristic feature of the village and it is good to note that these are being restored where necessary and existing walls maintained to a high standard. Some stretches of roadside edge need to be resurfaced, perhaps when the Council are in the process of building footpaths, they would attend to this also. Some old limestone kerbs have been spotted at places around the village which are half buried. These might be worth retrieving, re-salvaging and used to kerb new footpaths when these are being built. Good luck with the ducting of service cables. A road junction sign is buried in the hedgerow on the 'northern' end of the village, just before the nameplate which is on the right hand side of the road. There is a lovely set of gates just across the road from the school, presumably these were made in the old Forge.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Luggacurren is a lovely village in a rural setting which has much to offer its own community and the travelling public.