

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **VICARSTOWN**
County : **LAOIS**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	--
The Built Environment	40	28	--
Landscaping	40	28	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	--
Litter Control	40	28	--
Tidiness	20	14	--
Residential Areas	30	20	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	--
General Impression	10	6	--
TOTAL MARK	300	214	--

Vicarstown, Co. Laois

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Vicarstown is welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your comprehensive three year plan for the village. This adjudicator was most impressed with the plan presentation and, of course, the contents and we wish you well both in its implementation and in the long term development of Vicarstown. The village enjoys a beautiful setting on the canal and the community has a high level of awareness both of the value of your natural setting, your wildlife and your political heritage. Congratulations on the map of the village which was very helpful during adjudication and made the adjudicator's job a lot easier and enjoyable. The adjudicator is nominating Vicarstown for the national waterside award.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both Turleys Bar and The Vicarstown Inn are well presented. The stone building at the canal bridge looks exceptionally well. The church looks well and the bell tower is quite impressive. The school is a handsome building but needs some work. The carpark here needs to be resurfaced and should definitely have weed growth eliminated. Some landscaping of the school grounds would be in order and its boundary or a section of its cement finish boundary wall could be cleaned or painted. Similar points could be made for the Hall. Some outbuildings on the main road near the Inn could be cleaned and / or painted.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaped carpark of the sports grounds is very beautiful and is being very well maintained. Be careful to keep a check on weed growth in gravelled parts of the car park itself. Your efforts under this heading should be directed to permanent planting rather than flower displays.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Wildflower displays on approach roads look well.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is good. Only small amounts of litter visible during adjudication day.

TIDINESS

Weed growth along kerbs at the school should be eliminated. Don't forget to remove all building materials from the carpark opposite the Vicarstown Inn when building work has ceased.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The Drive is a charming cul-de-sac with its neatly mown

green areas and beautifully presented houses. The utility building here could be whitewashed to freshen. The roadside space to the pump could now be painted to match the pump itself or a contrasting colour.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

A roadside verge on the Kildangan road is rough in appearance and needs to be shaped and regrassed. The nameplate here needs to be realigned. What appears to be old limestone kerbs are exposed in some sections along the Ballymanus road to Grattan Lodge. These should be retrieved and used in a more prominent way to give a greater visual impact. Wirescape at the canal bridge is visually obtrusive and it is hoped that service cables will be ducted at some stage during the life of your plan or shortly afterwards. The 'No Heavy Vehicles' sign at the entrance to the canal side should be refurbished.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Vicarstown enjoys an enviable location on the banks of the canal and can boast links to the surrounding countryside also. The presentation of the village complements its setting beautifully.