

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Luggacurren**

Ref: **344**

County: **Laois**

Mark: **200**

Category: **A**

Date: **24/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	27	27
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	26
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>198</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your tidy Towns Entry for 2003. Luggacurran is a unique place and a pleasure to visit. Well done on your address by Dr. Carter. The benefit of his talk will percolate through the community over the next number of years. The update of your four year plan makes very interesting reading and puts in perspective all you have achieved and what is to follow. Well done.

### The Built Environment:

The Midland Health Board is excellent. The Church and grounds look extremely well, framed by trees at the entrance, the lawns are trimmed and furnished with attractive lamp fittings. The Community Hall is nicely painted with two planters either side of the entrance door. Three new trees have been planted to left of the entrance. Presentation is clean and tidy. The Church of Ireland church was being repainted and the metal belfry refurbished. It is looking very well. The post office no longer operates but the surrounding garden caught the eye. The Forge looks very well with its green painted doors, cut grass, and planter of flowers. The restored stone house with its timber windows is in keeping with the village style.

### Landscaping:

The village has beautiful stone walls throughout. The bridge looks fine with its grass 'footpaths', and

to its right a wildlife sanctuary with its derelict building. Left of the road is an attractive water pump, painted green in a horse shoe shaped 'bay' suitably decorated with flowers. The Post box is imaginatively inset into a wall extension which works well. At the tee junction is the water pump and trough feature. The linkage between the church and community hall is developing through the plantation of a row of trees which seem to be maturing well. Work on the bridge wall is still to be started. There are some overhead wires and ducting should be kept on the agenda. In the meantime some movement towards the introduction of more decorative lamp standards should be considered.

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

The wildlife area to the back of the forge with its natural flora and running stream is idyllic and on inspection day there was plenty of bird life to observe. It is recommended that consideration be given to the erection of an interpretative sign which will help educate and inform. The bridge is a central feature and is well maintained. The stone steps to the water's edge create a sense of adventure, and the planter of flowers is very attractive indeed.

### **Litter Control:**

Your no tolerance policy in regard to litter is working well.

### **Tidiness:**

Luggacurran was generally tidy but ducting of overhead wires should be kept on wish list. There are wall tops to be completed in front of new cut stone house near T-junction

### **Residential Areas:**

Residential housing is very well presented with well maintained curtilage and wall frontages. There were a number of delightful gardens noted. Care must be taken with new housing developments to ensure they are in sympathy and scale with the village.

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

The approach to the village is very pleasant with the old forge to the right, and the village sign to the left. The verge cutting is sensitively done. It is noted that the committee are in negotiation with the local authority in regard to foot paths. While it may not be pragmatic, the adjudicator found the grass paths in the bridge area unique in that they emphasised the 'old world' ambience of the village.

### **General Impression:**

Luggacurran is a very pleasant village to visit. The care taken by its community is self evident and is to be encouraged. Well done.