

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Vicarstown**

Ref: **242**

County: **Laois**

Mark: **218**

Category: **A**

Date: **21/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	39
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	28	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	25
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>217</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your entry to Tidy Towns 2003. The documentation enclosed with your application is very impressive. The 'Outline Development Plan for the new millennium' and 'A Study of the ecology of the Grand Canal bank at Vicarstown' provide an excellent academic resource against which your Four Year Tidy Towns plan has been drawn. Well done.

### The Built Environment:

The buildings within the immediate vicinity of the bridge, Vicarstown Inn, Anchor Inn and canal side houses are generally well presented. The old RIC Barracks could probably be freshened with painting. Further away the RC church is neat and tidy with well maintained gardens. The Grattan School looks fine with its recently repaired roof. The yard is almost without any plants or shrubs. There is an arrangement of flowers around a tree at one end, but generally the presentation is not too exciting. Concern must be expressed about the condition of the meeting hall. It is falling into disrepair with broken railings and weeded front wall. Behind the Anchor Inn new housing development is taking place with its attendant disruption of roadway etc. Other canal side buildings are typical of their kind.

GAA Grounds look fine, the building work now complete save for some cleaning of surrounds, but there is some weed spilling onto car park surface.

## **Landscaping:**

Canal side is very pleasant with period lamps and grass areas which are probably due a little trimming. There is attractive shrubbery to the back of the yellow pub. Trees have been planted to add backdrop to the canal scene. It is unfortunate that some trees and road side hedges have been lost or damaged due to disruption caused by building works. The gates to Grattan Lodge, the main gate and the one beside the church are attractively designed and should be presented as feature items.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The water pump opposite the Vicarstown Inn requires repainting and should be developed as a feature. The development of the canal for its fishing and boating is enhanced by the development of wild life habitat along the canal. The heritage walk, the Grattan Heritage Trail, the Vicarstown listed buildings all contribute to the Vicarstown's wildlife and natural amenities.

## **Litter Control:**

Your litter management programme appears to be quite successful.

## **Tidiness:**

Approach from Fort road side shows the village sign almost overgrown by grass and there were remains of burned weed in kerb. There is some wirescape over the canal. The car park in front of Creans is fine although metal girders should be removed. It is Good to see recycling bins.

## **Residential Areas:**

The old RIC Station is in need of repainting. There is attractive housing in the 'Drive' estate on the right hand side, with beautiful old trees at its entrance, and to the left a little rockery. These are well presented but there was a small 'show' of kerb side weed at the green on the opposite side.

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

The verge and hedging to left of Fort road is in need of attention. The approach from Stradbally side looks fine with mature trees and hedges. As indicated earlier, some damage to verges and hedges has occurred due to building disruption.

## **General Impression:**

Vicarstown has a progressive and active Tidy Towns community. It is a unique place, almost a step back to the 19th. century. Care must be taken to ensure that modern developments do not damage its unique heritage. The Tidy Town's Committee are highly commended for their planning and constructive efforts to build on the natural and built amenities within and around the village.