

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Luggacurren** Ref: **415**  
County: **Laois** Mark: **212**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **28/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	0
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>212</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

The adjudicator would like to welcome Luggacurran to the 2005 Tidy Towns Competition. As a first time visitor to your attractive village it was obvious that great community care and pride was at work. You have a sizable committee of ten people and appear to have a good publicity programme. It was interesting to read that you also have a web site. The successful Tidy Towns Committees are those that succeed in harnessing the goodwill, skills and experience of a number of different groups and Agencies that have something to contribute to the implementation of the 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan. These groups and Agencies include the following –

- GAA
- Local Development Association
- FAS
- County Council
- LEADER Company
- The CLAR Programme (if you are in a CLAR designated area)
- Local school
- Urban & Village Renewal Grant Scheme

The adjudicator notes that a Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan was not submitted with the entry documentation. All towns and villages are required to have a simple straight forward 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for their area. This Plan is prepared by your Committee in consultation with the appropriate local organisations. It should be no more than seven to ten pages long. The purpose of the Plan is to guide the work of your Tidy Towns Committee and others for Luggacurran over the short to medium term. Your Plan should detail year by year the work that you intend to do each year. It is recommended that you do not have too many objectives each year – perhaps 4/5 key projects.

### **The Built Environment:**

The Old Forge is one of your important projects and the front of this building was attractively presented with excellent grass verges. It is a pity that to the sides and back of the Forge that the area is not as attractive as that at the front. You might be able to extend your work here. The bridge is an interesting three eye structure. There appears to be potential to develop a small landscaped area on one side and perhaps clearance work could start next year on the other side of the bridge. A derelict house was noted near the bridge. Can you get permission from the owners to blank out the windows and doors with marine plywood? This can then be painted matt black and window glazing bars painted in white. Doors and door panels can be treated in the same way. As a temporary solution to derelict property this is quite acceptable from a Tidy Towns point of view. Both churches were attractively presented and it is interesting that the Church of Ireland Church does not have a spire. The old school is a most attractive stone building with red brick door and window detailing. A proper small gate needs to be provided probably in steel and painted matt black to match the Health Centre gate. An attractive addition here would be to provide some low wall capping to the top of the lowered old school wall. The present school has attractive landscaping and the stone walls here and elsewhere are a key feature of the built environment of Luggacurran.

### **Landscaping:**

The area around the village sign near the old Forge was excellently landscaped and reflects the many hours of care and attention given by your committee to this approach to the village. The shrubs in the school grounds looked very colourful and the work on the lawn to the side of the Community Centre looked attractive. Again this year the graveyard at Chopook was excellently presented with neatly cut grass areas.

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

Your plans for the rear of the old Forge as a wildlife area are interesting. It is important that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine further the wildlife potential of Luggacurran, and see what you can achieve in terms of making your area even more wildlife friendly.

If you have not already done so, the starting point is to have a habitat survey carried out of the wildlife in the Luggacurran area. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- Wetland habitats – rivers, ponds, reed marsh, bogs
- Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to the Luggacurran area. This need not be an expensive survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person locally who might undertake this task for you. Basically the survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit your area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different time of the year.

Using the results of the wildlife survey your next step should be do draft a straight forward Plan for Luggacurran to preserve the identified habitats in your area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. For example perhaps there is an old Pond in your area that is disused, but with a little work could be an important area for wildfowl.

It is most important to try and involve your local school children in this project, and in many Schools there is probably a teacher who may have an interest in this area who would be willing to get involved.

As part of the actions to be undertaken in your Wildlife Plan you might like to consider the provision of some weather proof display panels, illustrating and explaining the wildlife in the Luggacurran area. This has been done very successfully in many towns and villages in Ireland.

### **Litter Control:**

Your litter control measures are quite effective as litter control of adjudication day was very good. The village appears to be maintaining the high standard of litter control noted by the 2006 adjudicator. Well done to the total community!

**Waste Minimisation:**

This is a new category in the Tidy Towns Competition introduced in 2006. The purpose of this new category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the community that they support to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Marks can be gained by Luggacurran for the promotion of best practice. This can include community guidance on methods of reducing waste, segregating litter during clean up events.

**Tidiness:**

The gate at the ESB sub-station would be improved by painting and the edging around the roof here is looking quite stained and untidy and these matters should be discussed initially with the ESB. Near the bridge some gateway areas need to be improved, otherwise the village was quite tidy again in 2006.

**Residential Areas:**

Private houses were well presented reflecting again this issue of community pride mentioned earlier in this Report. Unfortunately the gateway to the Georgian House remains incomplete again this year. Really good landscaping was noted at the yellow house near the bridge.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

With the exception of the approach road around the bridge the other approach roads need some work in terms of grass verge and bank presentation. Do make sure that the cutting of banks does not take place during bird nesting season.

**General Impression:**

Luggacurran is an attractive peaceful village with great community spirit. The adjudicator wishes you well with your 2007 plans.