

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## ***Adjudication Report***

Centre: **Clarecastle - Droichead an Chláir** Ref: **1082**  
County: **Clare** Mark: **345**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **26/06/2022**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2021</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2022</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	46	48
Streetscape & Public Places	80	44	47
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	47	49
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	40	42
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	21	23
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	37	39
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	33	35
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>345</b>

### **Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:**

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2022. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór. Clarecastle is welcome to the 2022 SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition, thank you for your comprehensive submission, the photographs were helpful but the map less so as projects had not been designated on it as required as to their status of M, N or FP; it is appreciated that this was done in the body of the entry form but it should also have been done on the map or in the map legend. At 99 pages your entry was too long and detailed for adjudication purposes; aim too be more succinct next year. Congratulations on the completion of the Clarecastle Village Action Plan for Streetscape Rejuvenation (Phase 3) Street Corner Upgrade & Traffic Calming this is truly a fine achievement. Participation in the competition since 1963 is a fine record of which the Tidy Towns group must be proud; the satisfaction of seeing the benefit to the community is its own reward! The committee are well experienced in all things Tidy Towns and have a wealth of knowledge, skills and experience from which to draw in addition to tremendous community support. Thank you for referencing the Global Sustainable Goals where appropriate; we wish you continued success.

### **Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:**

Clarecastle's streetscape looks wonderful with the majority of its buildings beautifully painted and no overhead service cables or unsightly timber service poles to diminish the visual amenity of the built environment. Both the School and the Primary Health Care Centre look superb! Other buildings which were admired include the Day Care Centre, the Church and its grounds and the Clarecastle Pharmacy. Completed projects such as the Village Enhancement Plan, the Heritage Trail, Playground improvements and more are impressive and the featuring of information panels facilitates a good understanding of your homeplace for the visitor. The input of the Men's Shed is favourably acknowledged.

### **Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasá agus Tírdhreachú:**

The entrance to Clarecastle from the Ennis Road was beautifully landscaped and featured a pleasant seated amenity area. Equally the junction with the Kildysart Road offered visual amenity however, one area had yet to be completed. Container flower displays strategically placed throughout the village were colourful and complemented their surroundings; it is good to note the emphasis on biodiversity and planting for pollinators. Your survey of Clarecastle's trees is an excellent initiative including as it does a tree maintenance programme. Both the Mini Orchard and the Shrub Bed upgrade at the entrance to The Peoples Park are commendable and continued maintenance at the GAA amenity park is noteworthy also. Consideration might be given to signposting the Peoples

Park at its entrance and on the Main Street at the church.

#### **Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:**

The Regatta appeared to be winding up at the time of adjudication and it was good to note the bags of cans and other rubbish that had been collected. Outbursts of wildflowers were a welcome feature at the end of the quayside. On-going maintenance along Clarecastle's stretch of the Shannon Greenway and the Shannon Estuary Way is applauded. Habitat mapping within the Peoples Park is invaluable for the implementation of your Biodiversity Plan. Well done on the completion of the biodiversity enhancement plan for outdoor spaces. A flora and fauna identification of species panel within the Peoples Park should be installed there. The entrance to the clubhouse and grounds from the main thoroughfare is excellent however the car parking area needs to be resurfaced. The following link can be used to download an App that can be used to calculate the impact of actions taken for pollinators.

Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT Count) - National Biodiversity Data Centre ([biodiversityireland.ie](http://biodiversityireland.ie))

#### **Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:**

The Roach Remediation project sounds fascinating with its goal of reducing truck movement logistics through the village and maximising recycling opportunities during the site remediation process in addition to monitoring noise vibration and particulate matter. Keep us updated on the 'Green Skills for Life' and the 'Know your Carbon Numbers' initiatives. The recycling point looked very tidy; hopefully planting growing on the wall behind will spread to cover the wall!

#### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

No litter, dumping, graffiti or dog fouling was noted in Clarecastle on adjudication day which is a fine achievement especially with the number of visitors present. Plans to have the overhead service cables removed from Patrick Street and damaged footpaths refurbished are applauded. Let us know the outcome of the dog poo bags availability trial. We note that your major project this year is the signage tidiness project which is not a glamorous project but a very important one.

#### **Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:**

Dwellings within Clarecastle are a successful mix of two storey town houses, single storey cottages and housing estates the majority of which are beautifully presented. Green areas of estates are nicely managed and feature maturing trees; a number of dwellings beside the entrance to the quayside are beautifully painted and a small estate nearby was admired. Grassed roadside areas to boundary walls of dwellings on the Kildysart road look magnificent. Maintenance projects such as the Christmas lights upgrade, the playground upgrade, the promotion of bi-lingual signage, social inclusion initiatives, the community garden and more goes a long way to fostering community cohesion.

#### **Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:**

Themed nameplates are an attractive feature of Clarecastle and cultural finger-post signage is good too as are information panels and other items of street furniture within the village. Roadside verges are being managed in different ways but all are good! Those on the Kildysart Road are being left in their natural state for wildlife while those on other approach roads are a combination of neatly trimmed outer edges for visual amenity with inner areas left to form a wildlife corridor. Cycle lanes are favourably noted as is the Clare Abbey Task force work with the council on the bridge.

#### **Concluding Remarks:**

Clarecastle is a lovely village with an appreciation of both the built and natural environment. Dwellings within the village centre and those in estates are particularly well presented.