

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Cratloe - An Chreatlach</b>	Ref: <b>2059</b>
County: <b>Clare</b>	Mark: <b>253</b>
Category: <b>B</b>	Date(s): <b>26/06/2022</b>

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2021</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2022</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	32	34
Streetscape & Public Places	80	32	34
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	30	32
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	27	30
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	12	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	27	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	27	28
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>253</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. Cratloe is very welcome to the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition, thank you for this year's submission with its enclosures of a helpful sketch map, Biodiversity Enhancement Plan, Tidy Towns Action Plan and Green Schools Action Plan all of which facilitated adjudication. The small committee of 5 has good community support and has linked in with a variety of bodies and agencies that offer practical support also. Well done for your participation in the Leader funded Biodiversity Training Programme and the creation of a biodiversity plan for the parish field and the area around the Grotto; we applaud future plans to extend this to incorporate the village and its environs. Your communication methods are effective in broadcasting the Tidy Towns message and engagement with the schools beneficial for all concerned. It is satisfying to note community benefits of participation in the competition.

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

Saint John's Church is almost a 'hidden' feature of Cratloe but looks beautiful and appears to have been recently whitewashed or painted. The National School and the Community Hall premises are beautifully presented also particularly in relation to their grounds; the 'nature' sculptures carved in wood at the National School are appealing. The Woodcross Bar premises and adjoining Restaurant look well also. Congratulations on the construction of the outdoor public space adjacent to the Community Hall which facilitates outdoor events while maintaining social distance. New projects this year range from the refurbishment of an old building for a new business to acceptance into the Clare County Council Paint Scheme, the installation of a new pedestrian crossing at the school, the installation of new benches and the refurbishment of railings at the church and more! On-going maintenance at the Grotto, Graveyard and church is favourably acknowledged. the new Heritage Mapping Project is an exciting initiative.

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

Colourful flower displays at many locations throughout Cratloe are an attractive feature and in particular at the road junction leading to St John's Church. More planting might be featured on the stone plinth that accommodates the maturing trees within the car-park. Landscaping on the Green Road side area at the Community Hall and also on the raised stone bed in the small shopping area was admired also. Retaining walls to the inside of the car park of the Woodcross premises would benefit from cleaning painting or planting with a climbing plant. Landscaping for the green roadside areas across from the Woodcross Bar and Restaurant is recommended. There are many nicely maintained green areas within the village. Newly planted beds are a welcome addition especially when these are pollinator friendly and maintenance projects including those for native hedgerow and trees will ensure their survival

into the future. It is good to note planting for 'year round' interest such as snow drop and daffodil.

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

Congratulations on the formation of the Cratloe Community Woodland Group and of course to those members of the Tidy Towns group that participated in the Biodiversity Training Programme. No doubt when habitats have been mapped and species identified wildlife information panels will be installed at various locations on the flora and fauna of the village woodland area and nature trails created; there are exciting time ahead for the community! The range of species noted to date from miner bees to trees, red squirrel, frogspawn, wildflowers and more is promising and that this initiative will involve the school children and the wider community is truly impressive. The Cratloe GAA premises and car park look well however more could be achieved for the path leading to the GAA entrance which looks underdeveloped.

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

It is wonderful that the Cratloe community aspire to and have taken so many steps towards being a sustainable community; we 'take our hats off to you!' The Solar Farm initiative is exciting and we wish you success in your bid for this project. Also exciting is your application for funding for an Energy Master Plan and the energy Upgrade Home event was no doubt invaluable in promoting awareness and was a great success. The community is on the path to sustainable planting too with community composting, seed harvesting and although not noted water harvesting too. Travel is not neglected either with cycle lane / footpath for cycling to school and the reopening of the old railway station. There is plenty more to say but we will leave it there for now; the clothing bin at the Woodcross Bar and shops looked quite neglected, the recycling point located behind the E Setright premises was well presented.

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

Cratloe's participation in the National Spring Clean is applauded especially when it involves vehicular generated litter picking along approach roads; we note the 'fly-tipping' problem also and can only admire the community for their patience and resilience. Well done to students from both schools for involvement. The Woodpicker Group, 'Leave no Trace' and Woodland Group initiatives are excellent as is chemical free weed control although some weedy stretches of kerb were noted. Liaison with business and property owners is commendable and the graveyard clean-up is noteworthy too although appropriate care needs to be taken in burial grounds.

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

The residents 'Meitheal' is a beautiful concept! All three small residential developments appear to enjoy a high standard of maintenance with residents maintaining community areas and helping the less able-bodied look after their premises. All dwellings noted looked well, a number of roadside boundary wall near the Community Hall could be refurbished and a few roadside areas to boundary walls improved.

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

Roadside areas and verges are being well managed for biodiversity and we note expert advice sought and taken. It is satisfying to have successful engagement with property owners / clubs regarding their premises / curtilage areas. A big 'thank you' is extended to volunteers who clear pathways and road of rubble and debris in addition to weeds by hand. Hedgerow management, grassed areas and road signs all enjoy good maintenance and nameplates look well with their display of wildflowers.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Cratloe is deceptive at first encounter being a linear village along a busy thoroughfare with no strong core of buildings and shops it would be easy to pass through without really noticing; this would be regrettable as there is so much vibrancy in the life of the community. The further development of your natural woodland heritage will give Cratloe a greater profile and make it a visitor destination.