

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Limerick City - Cathair Luimnigh	Ref: 2121
County: Limerick	Mark: 330
Category: H	Date(s): 08/07/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	46	47
Streetscape & Public Places	80	42	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	43	44
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	38	39
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	26	28
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	26	27
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	38	39
TOTAL MARK	550	319	330

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

Fáilte Chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu 2022. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn. Go raibh maith agaibh as ucht bhur dtacaíocht le linn na paindéime. Lean leis an dea-obair.

Welcome to the 2022 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. Thank you for your entry and for your commitment to your place in these difficult times. Keep up the great work.

Your committee has 22 members and about 100 volunteers and you hold monthly committee meetings on Wednesday evenings after one of your 6 pm litter-picks. Other meetings are informal. There is a list of 13 voluntary groups with which you have good links and with which you are involved. We counted 14 agencies including Limerick City and County Council that support your work and 25 private businesses. All forms of electronic and social media are used for communications.

There are 34 Primary / Secondary Schools in Limerick City within the mapped area, and all are registered for the Green Schools programme and have a total of 22 Green Flags. Your specific project for this year is the Mini Urban Forest Project at Raheen Business Park in conjunction with Stryker and students from Crescent College Comprehensive which was undertaken since December 2021. This is your 10th year in the competition, and you are pleased with the progress made to date. Participation helps to raise awareness of your collective “duty of care” to Limerick and to identify areas where it can be improved. Many thanks for the multi-year plan which is set out in line with the criteria. Your application is well presented and thank you for including pictures within the text. Thanks also for the excellent map which clearly showed new projects and those which are under maintenance. However, it would be easier for the adjudicator if the numbers followed a sequence.

The handbook with guidelines for all the criteria was revised last year and is available at the following link.
<https://www.tidytowns.ie/competition/handbook/>

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

You are working with the local authority in helping to improve derelict properties, through their powers of compulsory purchase orders (CPOs) and you have listed several which are now operating successfully. The International Rugby Museum will be an interesting addition to your tourism package – it looks impressive. The new OAHU unit in Thomas Street and the new roof on Limerick Boat Club are noted. Major streetscape works in O’Connell Street are no doubt causing difficulties for traffic and pedestrians, but it is shaping up to be an excellent scheme. We can well understand the problem of improving basements and removing litter – a very convenient disposal location for those who don’t care about their actions. Well done on your work in this regard and also for the Wednesday Weeders who remove weeds from steps. At Pery Square, we noted the work being done by the new owners on the Georgian house, and at Barrow House, the new public library on Michael Street. The art scavenger hunt was a great way of turning some items such as bollards into art features. Service boxes and other blank panels are excellent media for

conversion into whatever the artists imagine – well done. Limerick Museum located in the Old Franciscan Friary on Henry Street is the oldest local authority museum in the state – it is a lovely old building. We admired the line of street trees outside Dunnes in Bedford Row and also along Thomas Street. Other items mentioned were picnic tables along Howley's Quay and the use of the Hunt Museum garden for events. Artistic events are mentioned in your application as are promotional events, walking tours and festivals. We noted the repointing done on the base of the Treaty Stone on Clancy Strand and the paving in this area was being renewed during our visit. Information signs on display panels in streets looked well.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Mentioned under this heading is the mini urban forest project at Raheen Business Park in conjunction with Stryker and students from Crescent College Comprehensive. In the People's Park (where wildflowers were sown), we had a good walk around this historic Victorian style park. The statue of Thomas Spring Rice standing on a column 79 feet high dominates this little park. Rose beds are planted on the sloping ground all around the base of the column. By the time of our visit, most roses were finishing their first flush of blooms. Mature trees are the highlight in this park and help to reduce the impact of the tall column. Pathways were in good condition and the park was well-maintained. The long bed of Begonias near the main entrance is very colourful, but it would be worth experimenting with planting perennial plants which can provide longer seasonal benefit and be pollinator friendly. We admired the two long beds of Begonias in the middle of Pery Square – they are well done, but perhaps this is another area where herbaceous perennial plants could be used. Ongoing projects include maintenance of the Hunt Museum Pollinator Garden and new community garden. New projects include planters on Nicholas Street, at King John's Castle and daffodils at the Hunt Museum Garden. New wildlife wood carvings are a lovely addition to the Baggot Estate and to mark National Tree Week, LCCC planted 1,700 saplings in nine locations. The many floral displays on baskets in the shopping areas were noted – they add a sense of importance to the streetscape. Trees in the street beside and in Arthurs Quay Park enhanced this little park as did some tiered plant containers. However, it was disappointing to see weed growth in the paving around the containers and some litter under seats. The revised handbook contains 28 pages of information under this heading and is available at the following link. <https://www.tidytowns.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Green-Spaces-and-Landscaping.pdf>

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

Under this heading, some items such as wildflowers have already been mentioned. The saving swifts programme was extended to King John's Castle Exhibition Centre and the Louvres of St Michael's Church in Barrington Street. Villiers School Biodiversity Trail which opened January 2022 resulted in the school receiving a Green Flag for Biodiversity in April 2022 – well done to teachers and students. The insect hotels were well made. We liked the signs advising people about why grass cutting was delayed. Information signs about feeding wildlife and not discarding rubbish in water are very important.

More information and guidance on suitable projects under this heading is available in the revised handbook available at the following link. <https://www.tidytowns.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Nature-and-Biodiversity-in-your-locality.pdf>

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

Limerick being one of two EU 'lighthouse' cities selected for a major climate-change pilot programme to give a lead on how to reduce the carbon footprint of urban areas is great recognition. A great start was made with the 'Georgian Neighbourhood' for data collection and use of range of new technologies aimed at making it a positive energy city centre. That is just one of several projects mentioned in your application. Some others are the City River Turbine, composting seminars at the Hunt Museum Community Garden, refillable water stations, reuse and repurpose programme that is giving new life to stone and brick that would otherwise be discarded at Limerick's Opera Square. A Limerick school represented Ireland at the first ever Junk Kouture World Final in Abu Dhabi. Wickham Way Vintage Pop-up shop for sustainable pre-worn clothing. In August last year, Greening the Smart Grid sprang into action with the installation of allotments and solar panels in O'Brien's Park on Clare Street. Well done on all of these initiatives. You have undertaken a great many projects. For more ideas, please consult the following link. <https://www.tidytowns.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Sustainability-Doing-More-with-less.pdf>

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Many thanks for taking the advice of last year's adjudicator and contacting LCCC in regard to ceasing the use of chemical weedkillers. The TLC annual event is a great Limerick programme that is not matched in any other county. Well done to all participants and sponsors. Promotions for binning gum, dog poo and cigarette butts are ongoing and new solar powered compacting bins are on the streets and more are on the way. You are pleased with the success of reducing the amount of dog poo due to cooperation of dog owners. Clean-up projects have focused on riverbanks in conjunction with UL Boathouse, basements and steps of Georgian houses. Litter patrols are on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings and collected material is segregated for recycling. Well done for all of these initiatives which represent a huge commitment on behalf of your team and volunteers. We noted some litter bins which are designed to contain a green wheelie bin – which is very clever, because it holds more litter and is convenient to empty. Some ESB poles are rusting and in need of painting. There are some untidy parts of the city and we note you are working towards having these improved.

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

One of your regular volunteers has made the residential area of Hyde Road, part of his weekly patch on a Sunday morning and has become known to the locals, who increasingly help him in his work and ask for bags and

litter-pickers. That is great motivation and stimulation. Local residents also helped with the TLC7 which was launched at St Mary's Park, Kings Island and residents around Westfield's Wetlands engage with you on a year-round basis. South Limerick City Residents Association are a key part of the City Centre TT group. They monitor residential streets in the vicinity of St Michael's Church and take particular care of the senior citizens in their area along with the upkeep of communal areas generally. Well done on that strong level of cooperation and support.

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

You are pleased that a significant portion of a €24 million Government allocation for Limerick walking and cycling projects will be given to projects in the city centre and on approach roads.

Concluding Remarks:

It is very difficult for a city to participate in this competition, and you have decided to confine your activities to a specific area, which is a good workable approach. Well done on your efforts to have Limerick looking its best. We look forward to receiving your application in 2023.