

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## ***Adjudication Report***

Centre: **Our Lady of Lourdes-Westin Bhaile na Corra** Ref: **2140**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **234**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **12/06/2022**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2021</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2022</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	35	36
Streetscape & Public Places	80	32	32
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	30	30
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	15	16
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	14	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	27	27
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	28	29
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>234</b>

### **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.

With a committee of 8 members, you have the support of another 11 volunteers, and you are just getting back to normal and have about 4 meetings in the past year. You use social media such as Facebook for communications and word of mouth. Two artists were engaged to work with youth services for street art projects and the children painted around drains – thank you for including some pictures. You are working with Limerick City Council towards reducing the number of derelict houses in the community and some progress is noted. For your 11th year in the competition, you are pleased to see the changes that participation has brought to your community. Thank you for your map of the area. The hand drawn map served to highlight the boundary of your community. If you decide to use the Google map, please mark that boundary because you are familiar with the area than we are. 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:**

Your teams do litter picking patrols most days of the week. It is frustrating for you when some plant containers are turned over and emptied, but you continue to fill them and plant them again – well done on persistence. Outdoor exercise equipment was installed by Limerick City Council on the walk way and nature trail at Baggot estate and the national school has occasionally used this area for outdoor classrooms. The Catholic church north of Childer's Road is a fine building on a raised site with some flowering cherry trees to one side. There is scope to plant more trees on the open space between the car park and Childer's Road. Childer's Road has some fine specimens of trees that enhance the area, The Lady of Lourdes statue looks a little lonely on the traffic island – could you arrange to have a few trees planted on this space? The paving was quite weedy and there was also some litter. We noted some unoccupied/derelict houses in this area.

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

All green space is mown by the local authority. It would seem that some of these spaces will not be developed for new housing and will remain as green spaces. We recommend having discussions with the local authority to have some trees planted on these spaces – perhaps in advance of the new development and involving youths of the

area. We appreciate that wandering horses are a problem in your community. Have you discussed this matter with the City Council. Under the Control of Horses Act 1996, the owners must have a horse licence, a passport and the horse must have a microchip. The owners are required to have suitable housing for horses, otherwise the horses can be confiscated.

Guideline for plant containers is to use them only where planting directly into the ground is not possible; they should not in themselves attract any notice. The best containers are those which are hidden by the plants. It is better to have fewer well planted containers than a large number in which the quality of plants is inferior. Empty or poorly planted containers are less effective than no plant container at all.

If considering more seasonal flowers the use of permanent planting including herbaceous perennials for floral displays is encouraged rather than relying on annuals which are more time consuming.

<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:**

The public are encouraged to visit the Baggot estate for its wildlife vale – it is an occasional outdoor classroom for the national school. It seems you have a rich natural area within your community, and it is important to promote an awareness of its many traits and to map these habitats. Appreciating your local wildlife resources is vital in order to achieve under this category. In this regard researching and raising awareness is more important than 'doing' at the early stages. Habitats of value include specimen trees, hedgerows, treelines, streams, woodlands and wetlands. Try to list the plants and animals to be found there and recognise their significance (native, protected, or alien invasive?). This information can be fun to gather and can involve the schools or other interested parties. Raise awareness through holding events such as hedgerow walks or bat walks. Contact the Irish Wildlife Trust for more information. <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:**

This category is about tackling the growing waste mountain that is creating problems of pollution, unwanted land use, and the use of dwindling resources. It is a global and a local problem. To save the Earth we need to move quickly to a zero-waste society. Your town can play its part by first looking at the volume of waste that is generated. The emphasis here really needs to be on reducing the volume of waste produced rather than recycling (which is taken for granted). At this level of the contest the adjudicator wants to see innovation in tackling bigger issues of food waste, plastic disposal and energy use. What are homes and businesses doing to tackle these?

There are several other measures that your town can take in regard to sustainability. Contact your waste contractors and try to find out what is being thrown away and armed with this information you can start to think about how waste can be reduced. Examine the waste pyramid and note the recycling is only the fourth most preferred option after avoidance, reducing and re-using. One third of our waste is organic in nature, such as grass clippings. You can avoid collecting mown grass by more frequent cutting and using mulching mowers which shred the clippings and facilitate faster decomposition. Regarding water usage, self-watering hanging baskets are a help in reducing the amount of water used and also the task of watering. Other waste minimisation projects might include working with retailers to cut down on packaging, reminding people to re-use shopping bags, discouraging junk mail, encouraging the re-use of water bottles and coffee mugs at school and at work. In response to an overuse of chemicals for weed control, many useful products of the past are no longer available and therefore communities are encouraged to use other means such as hoeing to maintain weeds. In some cases, allowing wildflowers to develop is an acceptable alternative. These activities will highlight the fact that you are focussing on this category and when you develop more projects in the future your marks will increase.

For more helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at  
<http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>

For more information on project ideas for this criterion, we advise consulting the revised handbook which is available at 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:**

Your team and volunteers participated in the annual TLC Clean-up on Good Friday. You pick litter five mornings per week and check the grassed areas in advance of the Council mower to remove debris and litter that could damage the mower or be spread by the cutting process. We do appreciate your difficulty in trying to maintain the area litter free.

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

The team pick litter in the avenues Monday to Friday and are on alert for illegal dumping and burning of waste. Residents are encouraged to participate as a way of developing civic pride.

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

Childer's Road is a main thoroughfare going through your area. It has some nice specimen trees. We suggest that the impact of these trees can be reinforced by planting trees on adjacent open spaces. If trees can be established they will provide long term environmental improvements with much less trouble to maintain than plant containers.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Well done for your efforts to have your community looking its best. We hope you can find our comments helpful to develop suitable projects and look forward to receiving your application in 2022.