

# Tidy Towns Competition 2016

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clarecastle** Ref: **1082**  
County: **Clare** Mark: **287**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **17/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	40	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	38	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39	40
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	36	37
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	15	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29	29
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>287</b>

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

your entry form with map and additional information. It is evident that this is a town full of energy and ambition to enhance the locality. You are well organised and enjoy good relations with a broad range of civic and regional bodies. Your application form could be simplified somewhat as the adjudicator found it a little confusing to follow. The adjudicator really wants to know what actions or projects have been undertaken since the previous visit. Clarity is key. Older projects should not be included while future plans can be confined to your three-year plan. Your map contains three separate keys but one succinct key showing the locations of projects would be sufficient. A three-year plan was provided and this is very well laid out. However a second document entitled 'development plan -physical pillar' was also provided. Photos are very welcome but should be limited to showing the projects which are being put forward this year. Streamlining your application this way would make it easier for the adjudicator to award points while reducing work for yourselves. Warm congratulations on your endeavour award last year, it was well deserved and you are commended for sharing your expertise with other Tidy Towns groups.

### Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

The numbering system in the application form corresponded to the red key on your map but these numbers did not appear on the map itself. Well done on the works to the quay and it is good that these have been completed to your satisfaction. The rebuilt stone wall in the People's Park is a great enhancement of this area (the adjudicator was initially unsure as to the location as it appears in two places on your map). Best of luck with the development of the heritage trail and it is worth waiting to get it right. It's great that derelict buildings have been restored or reoccupied and best of luck to the Castle cafe in their new business. The Barracks restoration will be a landmark project for the town upon its eventual completion. The church is an attractive point of focus in the town was looking very well on adjudication day. The Castle cafe looks wonderful and was enjoying brisk trade on adjudication day. The tiled facade at Plunkett's Bar and post office is a heritage feature. The renovated barracks is looking wonderful, hopefully upon completion the metal palisade fencing will come down to reveal this important view from the bridge. Patrick Power's impressed with its bold facade and restrained use of planters.

### Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Your community garden is a fantastic amenity and is clearly well cared for, as well as eye-catching on approach to the town centre. The People's Park is a fine green space with mature trees and hedges. A lot of traffic cones and crash barriers need to be tidied away however. The Port of Clare area is attractive and a great viewing spot for wildlife - there are house martens nesting in the quay walls. Colourful displays of flowers were admired at the turn in the road. The playground is a fantastic facility that was well maintained and well used on adjudication day. The grotto is a simple but well cared for attraction. The monument to the GAA is a nice feature, well decorated with

roses. The green area to the rear is neatly trimmed, newly or recently planted trees however are not succeeding and will need to be rethought.

#### **Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:**

You have a high level of activity in this area and are utilising the considerable natural resources in your area. It's great to read of the awareness you have of the important habitats and species which are present in this locality. Your series of bio blitz events is really excellent and a great way to engage children and adults. It's great also that you work with local businesses in this area.

#### **Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:**

You have one of the better programs of resource awareness seen by the adjudicator and the long list of individual initiatives is most impressive. By ensuring that all your projects integrate these principles you are incorporating waste avoidance into the Tidy Towns ethos. The way in which you have segmented the category into water, energy and business strategies is very good. The forthcoming Fleadh provides an opportunity to avoid what is normally a mountain of waste to do share any lessons learned. For more helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>

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

Well done for getting the EU funding sign removed. You have addressed issues in last year's report point by point and you are commended for doing so. It's great that you took part in the national spring clean as well as a regular rota of patrols. These are essential in maintaining a high level of litter control throughout. A yield sign at the end of old road is very faded and needs to be repainted. Older bunting on a pole near 'Arts & Crafts' should be taken down. This was noted also elsewhere. The town is tidy however while litter control on adjudication day was to a very high standard, well done.

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

Clarecastle benefits from a stock of well built and attractive homes. At Creggaunahilla mature trees and planting soften the skyline. A sign at the entrance for an engineering firm should be removed. Cluain Ard is a lively area with well painted homes. Aonach an Chláir was admired for its neat lawn and colourful display of roses in one garden. At Slí na Fhearghus rubber ties and stakes should be removed from trees.

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

It is noted that there are plans in the pipeline to install welcome signage. This is very much needed as it is difficult to know when you have entered Clarecastle, even when clearly in it there are directional signs indicating that it is 1 km away. Hoarding at the abandoned site on approach across the River Fergus is clearly a major eyesore and needs to be dealt with as a matter of urgency. Cycle lanes are essential for promoting sustainable transport and are welcome feature through the town. They were full of parked cars however and this renders them useless.

#### **Concluding Remarks:**

It was a pleasure to visit Clarecastle and spend some time admiring your attractions. Thanks to your hard work the community spirit is making is a better place in which to live and work. Keep up the good work!