

# Tidy Towns Competition 2023

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cranny - An Chrannaigh** Ref: **65**  
County: **Clare** Mark: **315**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **05/07/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	44	45
Streetscape & Public Places	80	36	37
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	46	49
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	33	34
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	14	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62	64
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	35	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35	36
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>315</b>

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2023. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór....

Welcome to the 2023 SuperValu TidyTowns competition and we thank you for your application form, map and photos. Next year insert these in the application form – ask some youth to help if you don't know how to do it. Your committee of 5 has the help of an additional 7 when needed. You list state and semi-state organisations, and community groups who help and advise you. You also have the assistance of CE workers – how many? You inform the community of your activities through meetings, parish newsletters, and notices/posters. This is your 27th year entering the TidyTowns competition which is wonderful. The competition has increased the commitment of the community to keep their houses and gardens neat and tidy and to take pride in their environment with an aspiration to make the village a better place for all.

We suggest that you prepare a Five-Year Plan with projects under each category and a timeframe so that you have targets. Don't make it too onerous, one or two projects/activities under each category is sufficient. Just list what you know is feasible to achieve. You can add partners to this plan who will help with the projects. Ask for advice/help from the Environmental Officer/Heritage Officer in Clare Co Co.

See Concluding Remarks for advice on filling out the application form and producing a map.

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

You are a dispersed rural community with a mix of vernacular single and two-storey buildings and these with the topography of the village with its rise up to the old school gives the area its character.

Add to these the St. Mary's RC church and Cranny National School to complete the architectural character. There are great vistas across the countryside which also add character to your village. The stone bridge over the river is quite special – but remove the ivy as the roots cause damage to the structure which will potentially lead to its collapse. Ivy should be removed from ALL stone structures. We loved the old Creamery building and surrounding area. Ivy has encroached on this important historical/social building and needs to be removed before it is hidden behind the ivy. We noted the Disabled Parking space marked out adjacent to the Church. The cottage with its corrugated asbestos cement roof is painted by you – whitewashed and red painted doors. This is an important entrance area to the village so we are delighted to see that you maintain it. The new graveyard is well maintained as is the memorial in the centre of the village.

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

You have a wonderful green area beside the Cloon River which you manage. We stopped for a while at the picnic table tucked under the trees and enjoyed the view of the river and the lovely single arch stone bridge. We question

the purpose of the white chain with metal stakes, particularly as it's not at the edge of the green space. (You also have one at the cottage area). The swan planting beds are a bit of fun and we have no doubt that they are loved by children. We recommend that you build a permanent stone bed in this area and remove the temporary planters that are here. The guideline for plant containers is to use them only where planting directly into the ground is not possible and where they are used for impact. Remove suckers and broken branches from trees and possibly trim the canopy over the picnic table as it's quite low. Some ash trees grow here and these will have to be removed due to ash dieback – plan for this. The hanging baskets on the bridge need additional flowers – maybe we were there before you had undertaken this work? A little colour could be added to some planting beds e.g the one near what we think was an old dance hall near the bridge. Cranny is fortunate to have a wealth of trees and hedgerows all around the village. That is very important because trees are long lasting and provide the main structure of the landscape. We noted the new trees along the river bank. The planting beds at the cottage and at the creamery are wonderful - a multitude of bees and butterflies were enjoying the lupins, roses and other pollinator friendly flowers.

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

Stone walls, hedges, trees, fields, the river banks – all are wonderful habitats for mammals and insects and for our flora to grow. The roadside frontage along the approach roads is a great example of how to effectively present a semi-wild habitat, with its narrow strip of tidily mown grass along the outer edge, to show that the wilderness behind is deliberate. We admired the 'Biodiversity of Cranny' sign at the old cottage. You took part in Biodiversity Training via Zoom in 2021 which made you more aware of the importance of biodiversity and since then you have changed your landscaping regime. We read with interest of the possibility of mining bees near the creamery. Monitor this and let us know more next year. We notice the bug hotels in a few areas which will need to be maintained/cleaned to get rid of any residue, debris, and old loose, dry materials to prevent fungus and mites from spreading.

### **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 and we must address it. Tidy towns committees are encouraged to try and prevent the generation of waste when carrying out their day-to-day activities. It is recommended that you get the basics right and focus on simple but effective measures. For example, you could make your own compost for use in your landscaping schemes as this avoids all of the associated packaging and other waste that comes with shop bought fertilisers. Growing your own pollinator friendly plants, harvesting your own seeds or sourcing donations of plants from keen local gardeners is recommended as this also avoids the waste associated with shop bought varieties. The water butt at the cottage, which will be helpful for the watering of the flower beds and hanging baskets, was noticed. We like the fact that it is in a prominent position as this might encourage residents to install one at their homes. The 'Take a book, Leave a book' cabinet was noticed.

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

Like many communities in Clare, you took part in the An Taisce Clean-Up in April – we commend the community on this, as it focuses the attention of an area on the need to be vigilant with fly-tipping and weed growth. The plating bed (near the Fáilte sign) needs a little attention – weed growth was noticed. We recommend removing weeds in the autumn and again in the spring before they get a chance to grow strong. Take care not to install too many signs (there are 3 beside the brick bug hotel) as signage is clutter and detracts from the streetscape. The visibility of the weed barrier membrane somewhat detracted from the overall finish in some planting beds but this is easily resolved with increased depth of mulch material. We are delighted to report that there was virtually no litter in the village so we commend your Litter Pick-Up team, but weed growth was noticed. Gravel is extremely difficult to keep weed free and so we recommend that the large area near the old creamery is seeded with grass which is easier to maintain and also biodiversity friendly. Other gravel areas can be sprayed with organic weed killer or a mix of vinegar, salt and washing up liquid.

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

Located in rural Clare you have well maintained vernacular single and two storey houses and on approach roads there are farmhouse surrounded by neatly kept yards and fields. We were delighted to see the standard of presentation of individual houses within the village environs was generally very good and we applaud the many home owners and occupiers who clearly take pride in their place and keep their front facades, road frontage, gardens and boundary walls well-presented and neatly maintained in support of your work. Some individual homeowners had wonderful colourful displays of flowers and shrubs which add to the streetscape. There is a very ornate wrought iron set of gates on the streetscape which we admired ... compliments to the craftsman who made them.

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

We admired the Fáilte sign on the entrance road from the west. We also noted the townland names. Why was the one near the cottage raised so high over the ground level? There are a number of colourful planting beds along the approach roads which you maintain and there give the motorists the warning that they are entering a village and so to reduce speed. We see that a footpath extends from the village to the graveyard allowing those who have lost loved ones to walk safely to the graveyard. We see that you are also hoping for a path from the school to the center of the village and we recommend that you pursue this with the area engineer. This would link in with the path from the graveyard and would make your complete village safe to access on foot.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

We were delighted to visit your village, our first visit, and thoroughly enjoyed our stay as we meandered around taking in the sights. We suggest you consult the Tidy Towns Handbook which has been revised. It is available to download it from the Tidy Towns website. It includes plenty of suggestions for suitable projects to consider under the various categories.

In terms of your Tidy Town's application form we request that applicants number their projects as, new projects (N), or improved/maintained projects (M). Give each action/project a number as New (N1, N2, N3 etc.) or Maintained (M1, M2, M3 etc). This same numbering system to be used to indicate the locations of these projects on a map – N1, N2, N3 etc and M1, M2, M3 etc. This is to help the adjudicators to negotiate their way around your village and see the various projects or locations of projects.

Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2023 competition and we look forward to seeing you again next year.