

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre:	Caherconlish - Cathair Cinn Lish	Ref:	1483
County:	Limerick	Mark:	277
Category:	C	Date(s):	04/06/2023

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	37	38
Streetscape & Public Places	80	33	34
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	32	33
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	32	33
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	20	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51	53
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	31	32
TOTAL MARK	550	268	277

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.

From the list of community groups, voluntary organizations & government & NGO you are linked into, it is clear you are well embedded within the community. It is so important for your group that members of the committee & volunteers have close ties or are active members of other committees & bodies as this provides a wider range of voices & opinions. The formation of a Community Council as a consequence of the Caherconlish-Caherline Community Planning workshops held in October & December 2022 is a milestone for the area. Your voice as a Tidy Towns group is so important as you come with a different perspective & knowledge base. As Helen Keller said "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much". We will be very interested to hear what the agreed plan of priorities for the community in the next 3 – 5 years will be in next year's report.

Your outlet for news via social media, <https://www.facebook.com/milcentre/> does not appear to be currently used as the last posts are from 2022. It appears they have moved over to Twitter. It is great to see the National School is very supportive on Twitter of your work.

Thank you for taking on board the suggestions last year re the map you supplied. Your adjudicator found it easy to navigate Caherconlish and its environs. As there were only 7 specific marked locations highlighted with some notated, a legend was not essential. However, if in future years there are any more areas of note, a legend would be most helpful for your visiting adjudicator.

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

The Primary school looked spruce & bright on adjudication day. It was noted that the extension to the school has been delayed yet again. It would be hoped that once it is complete a focus could be placed on incorporating greenery into the space. Pocket Forests <https://www.pocketforests.ie/> might be an option – a miniature version of a natural woodland. The NGO has worked with schools in conjunction with ChangeX. It might be worth making contact with them & be ready to go when the building works are completed.

The Garda Station with its freshly painted exterior was well presented as was the Health Centre & St Ailbe's Credit Union exteriors. The Millennium Centre is quite striking & the trees lining the boundaries soften the vast area of hard surfacing.

There are some excellent examples of how existing properties can be enhanced & there were a number of examples in Caherconlish.

On adjudication day, we thought there were a number of vacant premises to be seen – the Village Diner, the house beside Michael Lynch's Pub, 3 cream houses in the centre of the village on the way to Barrack Close & Cios Rioga, the downstairs of the old Costcutters and Flannerys. Are there plans for the enclosed yard in the centre or the library

building?

We note that much of what you have reported in this year's section of the submission was included in last year's report and you received praise, commendation & credit for those in 2022.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Well done on continuing to maintain public areas in conjunction with Limerick County and City Council. It takes regular communication and hard work to keep a good standard. On adjudication day, the beds on the left hand side on Limerick approach road were blooming with perennials. The large stone in the midst of each bed adds both contrast & interest. The raised stone bed at the crossroads was well presented & obviously is a new bed recently planted with perennials. It will provide great colour & soften this area. The residents' gardens here are awash with colour to complement this bed.

It was clear you have a reduced mowing regime, as there were lots of wild flowers to be seen in the short meadow on the approach from Limerick as well as the green space across from the Circle K station. The committees caring for the graveyards are to be commended for the presentation of these green spaces. There is a very interesting guide for Faith Communities assisting them with actions they can take to help pollinators. It would be worth sharing with the cemetery committees. <https://pollinators.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Faith-Communities-Pollinator-Guidelines-2022-WEB.pdf>

Was any consideration given to the suggestion in last year's report on softening the hard landscaping at the car park in front of Fr Hayes Memorial Park?

We note that much of what you have reported in this year's section of the submission was included in last year's report and you received praise, commendation & credit for those in 2022. A brief update on the 3 outstanding projects – Tennis Club redevelopment, Caherconlish AFC development & Primary School - would be beneficial each year. Your adjudicator found updates on the Primary School's Twitter page however were unsuccessful in their search for news on the others.

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

It is heartening to see that the National School is very active in this area with studies on mini beasts, weather patterns, focus on signs of Spring, nature hunts & the water cycle. They are very active on social media informing their audience of all these activities & they are encouraging the next generation of citizen scientists. How fantastic to have a Biodiversity Youth Group active in Caherconlish & who take part in nature walks with wildlife experts. A brief synopsis from them on the year's activities for inclusion in your submission would be of interest.

There is such excitement when nest boxes receive their first residents. You mention four of the 10 were occupied in 2022. Do let us know what species & whether they raised broods in next year's report.

On adjudication day, your move to the planting of pollinator friendly plants was very evident & great to see. Certainly your watering regime will be much reduced now many of the plants are well established.

There are two birch trees that could be removed from the green near the old library, as they are dead.

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

The National School is very active in this area - highlighting Earth Hour in March, involving the school in Scoot to School Week & Safe Routes to School to reduce their carbon footprint, water conservation and promoting cycling with the Big Travel Challenge over 10 days in February as well as the development of skills in safe cycling & bicycle maintenance. It is heartening to see An Taisce's Green Schools environmental & educational programme put to excellent use in Caherconlish. Well done to the teachers, students & parents – very impressive.

We note reference was made to attaining land close to the Primary School for parking – have either of the transport initiatives at the school reduced the numbers of pick ups & drop offs at the school? It would have been hoped they were not once off initiatives with no lasting benefit.

Now that the Community Centre building's energy upgrades are 2 years in situ, it would be interesting to know are they using all the solar electricity produced and whether they are selling the surplus to the grid. They should be able to supply you with a brief synopsis for inclusion next year. It would be hoped that all equipment is back in action after the December 2021 fire.

We note that much of what you have reported in this year's section of the submission was included in last year's report and you received praise, commendation & credit for those in 2022.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Congratulations to the children of the National School on being actively involved in the Picker Pals programme. We need each generation to be mindful of their environment & care for it as both as a member of society & as a community member. They certainly are famous now having made the national news, well done to all.

TLC8 was a success for Caherconlish with your group of over 60 volunteers coming out on the day to support your endeavours & enhance their community's environment. Do you find you are collecting less or more litter year on year?

You are hiding your achievements – you were shortlisted for the Limerick Going for Gold Tidy Towns Category in 2022 – well done. If you are fortunate enough to be in the same position this year, do tell us about it in your submission.

A yearly audit of street furniture is a worthwhile exercise – any redundant poles, state of bollards, road markings, road signage, bins etc. Your perseverance paid off & you have new litterbins in situ.

There was casual litter about on adjudication day – the remains of a takeaway behind the old IRA monument & some papers on the green behind the school. However, given the number of cars travelling through & the

businesses operating the standard was good overall.

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

It is always lovely to see occupants within a centre take pride in the appearance of their residences. There were some lovely examples of well-presented abodes & gardens. Cios Rioga's estate appears like it needs a little TLC now with a lot of weed growth & boundary walls needing power washing/painting. Hillview Drive was a pleasure to visit with its mature corridor of trees, perennial planting & seating area. The freshly painted walls on the approach create a lovely vista. The terrace of white houses have occupants with green fingers, their gardens were a pleasure to view as was the planted bed running alongside the new footpath. Ceol na Habhann estate was looking well on adjudication day. Castle Park has a lovely entrance & a nicely planted margin between the artery road & the access road to the estate. It was noted there were trees there that need to be replaced & we wondered if the flowers in containers could be planted into the ground in a mounded space. There is an excellent publication for residents of housing estates on actions they can take for pollinators. It would be worth circulating. https://pollinators.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Local-Communities_actions-to-help-pollinators-July-2021-WEB-JB.pdf

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

The planting that was completed in 2021 at the Caherconlish sign on the Limerick Road has flourished & the foxgloves were striking in the colour palette. It is great to see the hedges on all approach roads were awash with hawthorn & elderflower blossoms. All the roads travelled were in a good state of repair & there is no shortage of pavements for residents. The approach road from the Cork direction has lovely stonewalls, well maintained footpaths & blooming hedgerows.

Concluding Remarks:

Caherconlish's local area plan 2023 – 2029 provides a comprehensive strategic plan & it would be hoped that your group could avail of supports to realize projects. With the increased focus on redevelopment within the village, you can look forward to greater occupancy & innovative architectural reinstatements. A 3-5 year plan provides an opportunity for your group to determine your priorities & projects & then focus on achieving them over that time period. We wish you the very best for the future.