

# Tidy Towns Competition 2023

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Croagh - Cróch**

Ref: **447**

County: **Limerick**

Mark: **317**

Category: **A**

Date(s): **19/07/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	45	46
Streetscape & Public Places	80	41	43
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	45	47
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	30	31
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	17	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	34	35
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>317</b>

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 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 Supervalu Tidy Towns 2023. Thank you for participating again in Tidy Towns. Tidy Towns is good for your community and good for the country.

The Irish name for Croagh is Cróch and which means “round hill” or “saffron”. You have provided a one page, simple but very effective village map. There is no mistaking here as to what buildings or parks are being referred to. Thank you, Croagh! You have a small population of 186 people and interestingly it would appear that in the 19th Century the population of Croagh was estimated to be over 3000 people! Your village was By-Passed by the N21 in 1986 and since then you have created a thriving and attractive village.

You have a Committee of 20 and a Volunteer group of 15. For a small village, that is a wonderful number of people who keep Croagh looking well and thriving. You are involved in the Team Limerick Clean Up and the evidence for this is plain to see. You have support from Limerick City and Council and at least 7 other groups who undertake to support your Tidy Town or are actively involved in making Croagh a great place to live in. Remarkably, you have been involved in Tidy Towns for 31 years. That is a great achievement for a small village.

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

The N21 By Pass runs very close to Croagh and you have managed to have planted a wide linear belt of trees and shrubs between it and Croagh. On the other side of the N21 there is a line of fine trees. The N21 itself is a busy road but you have managed to have several safe crossing points from the one side to the other. The Croagh village road is compact, and you have in a small area a National School, two pubs, a School of Music, a very attractive Garden Centre, a new housing estate, a GAA Sports Complex, the old Croagh Augustinian Abbey and even an original Carnegie Library, to name but a few! The Augustinians were established in Ireland in the 1280s but had ceased to exist in 16th Century. The remains of the Abbey are a precarious ruin, and it is very sad to see the state that it is in currently. Hopefully, it will be protected and made safe. There are wonderful Headstones around the ruins.

The local school is very well maintained and painted attractively. However, we suggest that a small number of trees should be planted at the front of the school and that would not block out too much light. It would also be very good for the schoolchildren to be in direct contact with trees. Could we suggest that the front wall to the school be replaced with a hedge? This would reduce the hard impact on the school and the adjacent street. An alternative would be to plant Ivy on the wall and when fully established to keep it trimmed – outside of the bird nesting season! The school also has Biodiversity and Sustainability features including vegetable plots and wildflowers. Well done. On one of the junctions at the N21 and opposite the D + M Garden Centre there is a wonderful display of flowers that no one could miss. It would attract anyone who saw it to stop in the village.

There is a graveyard to the rear of the National School. We would have preferred a hedge as a boundary instead of a block wall around the graveyard and consideration should be given to have a very small number of trees in the Graveyard itself. This would make the graveyard a more pleasant place to stop and contemplate. Otherwise, the graveyard is very well maintained.

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

The impact of the N21 By-Pass could have killed Croagh, but you have managed to reduce the impact of the passing traffic and indeed when you are in the village you experience a reduced noise impact. The very wide, linear planting of trees, shrubs and a park area makes both the N21 and Croagh Village a very attractive area. Not alone that, but the “park area”, is divided into smaller areas that cater for children, adults, wildflower planting and access to the old Augustinian Friary.

There is a GAA Sports Complex and this is a great facility for sport and recreation. Can we ask again to plant some trees and to reduce the impact of the metal buildings.

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

There is a Wildflower area associated with the parkland and when inspecting it there was an abundance of wildflowers, birds, and insects. We were wondering about the “River”, as it seemed to be a little bit lost? Rivers and streams are wonderful for wildlife and indeed can also store water in times of heavy rain. Thankfully, the stream has not been culverted – unlike many such streams around the country. We would suggest that you discuss this – and you probably already have - with your local Biodiversity expert and how to protect and enhance it.

It is wonderful to see that the pupils and teachers in the National School are working on flower and vegetable plots. You have lots of vegetables and fruit plants growing in the school grounds. Indeed, we see that you have student participation in Tidy Towns. Congratulations to the school for securing a fourth Green Flag for Biodiversity. All of this is education for life.

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

Your D+M Garden Centre has accommodated Beehives to the rear of the Centre. What a wonderful project. Good for wildlife, good for the education of children and adults and good for sustainability too. Your school is working on food waste and recycling, and you have included the parents in this also by undertaking a survey. This is the way to work out what is required to deal with this major – sustainability - issue. In another Sustainability initiative your Croagh-Kilfinny Camogie Club have been involved in clothes collections.

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

On the day that we inspected your village we noted how clean and litter free it was. You have taken part in the Team Limerick Cleanup and 39 people volunteered to engage in this great effort. But it is the continual “meet ups” that keep Croagh clean and tidy – and dealing also with the tending to weeding and pruning. Well done.

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

It is great to see that buildings are being renovated – in particular, the old Carnegie Hall, now a Library and the adjacent building now a Community Centre. The colour scheme of blue and white for these buildings works perfectly. There is housing renovation also of two houses on the Eastern end of the street. The renovation work is very attractive. On the L1205 road a house has been newly thatched, and the walls painted pink.

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

Amazingly, your volunteers cut the grass on the roadside verges along the N21 and your volunteers maintain the L1205 Adamswood approach road. Well done – and be careful!

### **Concluding Remarks:**

This is a remarkable but small village and yet, it is full of inspiration and a “can do” approach. Keep up the good work Croagh!