

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Croom - Cromadh** Ref: **448**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **331**
Category: **C** Date(s): **19/07/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	46	48
Streetscape & Public Places	80	42	43
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	43	44
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	37	38
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	20	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	58
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	38	40
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	38
TOTAL MARK	550	320	331

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.

There is a good feeling when entering Croom - the wonderful old landlord estate walls, the well-preserved old buildings and the Maigue River to mention a few. The town is busy and that is what a town should be.

This is your 21st year to be involved in Tidy Towns. You have a committee of 6 and a cohort of 20 volunteers – that is a good number of volunteers. You also have new residents who have embraced the Tidy Towns ethos. You have a well-planned meeting system. Additionally, you have a wider range of groups, volunteers, businesses, schools, resident's associations, schools and Limerick City and County Council also – to mention a few. The Team Limerick Clean Up seems to be everywhere in Limerick County and in Croom also.

Overall, there is a good feeling about Croom.

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

The entrance to Croom from the Dual Carriageway is presented very well and sets the scene with the well planted and maintained roundabout. The Streetscape and Public Places of Croom is defined by the historic old walls, Mills, Churches, and Graveyards. The old stone walls and the once thriving Mills with that wonderful, coloured stone makes the entrance to Croom one that is lively and colourful. There is also the River Maigue, an impressively wide river. Croom is also defined by the streets that are busy with enterprise. Remarkably, there are very few derelict buildings. The old Church of Ireland and Graveyard has a wonderful calmness and beauty. There are wonderful historic headstones also. We should treasure our churches and graveyards.

Yes, there are some businesses that are closed and hopefully these will reopen again. We noted that the Car Sales area is clean and tidy but we would suggest that it could be better presented by adding at least two or three trees to enhance the area. It would also be good for business. We suggest three Birch trees, if there is space for such.

It is good to see that the old Railway building which is almost derelict will be restored by Croom Medical and incorporated into its business. It is sad that the old railway line has been built on. This was an opportunity lost to create a Greenway but the damage was done at a time when there was no interest – nationally - to create such a facility and indeed the damage was done at a time when the local economy meant emigration for many.

Croom Sports Complex and Scout Den are letting Croom down! Again, we suggest planting several Birch trees that will reduce the negative impact of the buildings on the Streetscape. On the positive side we love the seating provided on the streets, in particular the seating on the wall adjacent to the Aubergine Café. Well done.

The new school, Scoil Chiarán is a wonderful new campus. We suggest that you plant more trees that will enhance the facility.

Finally, Croom is a compact town and all the better for that. However, as in many other towns and villages throughout the country, there have been scattered new settlements created indiscriminately and in relation to Croom that could put pressure on the town. This then adds to car journeys on very narrow roads to purchase grocery shopping and other goods as well as having to transport children to and from Primary and Secondary School. We also note – positively - that there are cycle lanes and footpaths provided for the new school, Scoil Chiarán.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

You have two good examples of Green Spaces and Landscape thinking on a broad scale. These are the Riverside Walk and the Town Park. Both give inspiration to making Croom a better place to want to live in. The newly opened Riverside Walk along the River Maigue is a great enterprise. At the entrance there is the magnificent Croom Castle and it is wonderful that it is occupied. We walked along the river until we reached the end. Walking has grown phenomenally throughout Ireland in recent years, and you should work to extend this walk and ideally, link to other walks. The Riverside Walk is wide, it is lined with existing trees, and it has the sound of the river Maigue beside it. The width of the walk and the wide belt of trees adjacent to the road reduces the negative impact of the noise of the fast-moving cars.

It may be a good idea to consult your local Biodiversity expert to discuss the opening of one or two areas along the river so that the walkers can stop to take in the riverscape. This would have to be undertaken without damaging the biodiversity of the facility. You should also consider, again with your Biodiversity expert, allowing the rewilding of some of the very wide grass area. Thank you for your seats!

The second idea is already in place. This is Croom Town Park and again, it has the river Maigue running beside it. It is a large park and all the better for that. A large park means that different opportunities can present themselves. Already you have a Wildlife area, orchard planting, children's play space and adult exercise area and, you have good paths for walking and lots of seating also. We love the wildflower areas. In your wonderful Park you have extended the Wildlife area.

Can we suggest that you do not cut the grass between the trees? There is no need to do this. Much damage is done throughout the country, where cutting by mowers causes damage – often fatal - to the trees. In the same vein, can we also suggest leaving a wide space between the path and the adjacent trees? This allows for grass cutting without damage to the tree bark and, also it is safer for people to have a wide distance between the path and the adjacent woodland. And please, do not strim between the trees.

You have a very natural playground with plenty of opportunities for children to make their own play. The play area was well chosen, and it is situated close to the Croom Civic Centre and the Aubergine Café. The Café is wonderful! This is a great idea for both parents and children.

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

The one thing about Croom is that there are lots of streams and wetlands. They should be treated well but hopefully any threat that they could be in danger will be dealt with. This is not just about Nature and Biodiversity, it is also preparing for the challenges that are all around us in terms of flooding but also in terms of protecting our nature and biodiversity. If we do protect our Nature and Biodiversity we will also be protecting our future housing stock, our existing streets and our water courses, both the large Maigue River but also the small watercourses.

We noted the grass edges of the road into the Orthopaedic Hospital have been sprayed. This is a problem in the island as a whole - but now it is being challenged in the spirit of the times we live in. Please do stop the spraying of herbicides. There are other ways of dealing with these issues.

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

You are working on Sustainability in Croom. You have a new Water Butt added to the Civic Centre and you take water off a shed in the park, you have a policy of Reuse and Recycle, the Enterprise Centre has installed Solar Panels and many more initiatives also. You have a Sustainable Gardening Course and this is another great idea – many people do not understand how Sustainability works and educating people is the first step.

We noted that when the painting of the Croom Town Bridge being undertaken, measures were taken when removing the old paint to ensure that no old paint material was allowed to fall into the river Maigue. Well done on that. This is Sustainability in action.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your town is very clean and well done on achieving this. There is of course always room for improvement! The important thing is that there is an active awareness of what is to be done. One of the initiatives, county wide, is the TLC – Team Limerick Clean Up – and this initiative seems to have become embedded in most towns and villages in Limerick now. One of your initiatives is the 3rd Class pupils becoming “Custodians” of the Town Park. And initiatives like this become embedded in a natural way for children.

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

The Main Street has many houses occupied and this makes a town or village. The houses and businesses in Main Street are very well maintained and painted and there are lots of flower displays. Caemore and Kylefea housing areas are well maintained but the roads appear to have been very poorly constructed. We also noted the placement of many seats to allow for the public to take a welcome rest.

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

The entrance to Croom from the N20 is very attractive with fine walls, trees, the Church of Ireland and the entrance

bridge over the River Mague. The bridge has a fine display of flowers on both sides. At the other end of the town where the old Railway Station and the Croom Medical facility are situated there is a need to make the entrance one that sends a message that you are entering an attractive and enterprising town. We are pleased to see that LCCC and Croom Medical are working to enhance this area and to restore the Train Station. We are looking forward to the outcome.

Concluding Remarks: