

# Tidy Towns Competition 2023

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Moyross - Maigh Ruis** Ref: **2080**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **268**  
Category: **C** Date(s):

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	42	44
Streetscape & Public Places	80	34	35
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	31	31
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	26	27
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	20	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	47	47
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	32	32
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>268</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.

You have entered Moyross in Tidy Towns for the past 9 years. Tidy Towns is a wonderful endeavour, and it can help communities to make their places better. Yes, it does take time for it to work, but if your Tidy Towns Committee sticks with the long-term plan it will help to make Moyross a better place. You have a Committee of 15 and a volunteer cohort of 50. These are really good numbers and are testament to the foresight of your committee and community in helping to make Moyross a great place to be.

Moyross is a very large housing area on the edge of Limerick City. There are other much older housing areas built to a closely knit plan but the relatively recent housing, 30 or 40 years old it would seem, for some reason, to be spread out over a very wide area. There are very large and small areas of open space. Many of these smaller open space areas, from viewing them, would seem to be problematic for the householders. The local Church, School and Moyross Community Hub are in very good condition and very well maintained. There is a Café and meeting areas in the Community Hub and adjoining it there is a wonderful play area and planted up beds. There is, at the extremity of the housing area Watch House Cross which is a mixed-use development for a private client including supermarket, library, petrol station, retail units, office units and associated entrance roads and car parking. It also includes medical facilities. You have Junior Tidy Towns and this is represented on the Tidy Towns Committee. Your local Primary School has a Green Schools Committee. Your school is working towards its 9th Green Schools Flag. Well done. One of the great initiatives that your school is involved with, is getting "each child in the school being given the opportunity to grow something from seed and taste it and even cook with it by March 2024". This is a marvellous idea.

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

The Watch House is surrounded by railings on a plinth wall. Some small effort has been made to plant trees but there are very few. Currently, there is quite a concentration of new development, and this is being built adjacent to the much older housing. The new housing under construction looks very attractive. Your Adjudicator is describing the housing area as older late 1940s to 1960s housing and relatively newer 1970s type housing. This may not be accurate, but your Adjudicator is trying to describe what is "on the ground". One of the features of the Streetscape is the location of very large areas of open space. Many areas of the 1970s housing have small open spaces adjoining the houses and these appear to be causing problems to the residents. Many of these houses have railings and wire on the walls to prevent intrusion. There are many areas also of extremely large "open spaces". Some may be for future housing needs, and some may be intended for parkland. One of the features of the housing

is the fragmented nature of it. For example, there are houses of two or three grouped together at a distance from more concentrated housing. The 1970s housing pattern is arranged completely differently to the older 1940s to 1960s housing.

The new developments are a mix of individual housing and apartments. They are built on the existing “empty” areas, and it would seem to be an effort to create a proper neighbourhood. The boundaries to the overall area have housing siding on to an old road and this is problematic since it can result in anti-social problems. We noted that Cliona Park Phase 3 and currently under construction appears to have the houses siding onto the open space. We hope that we have mistaken this since any housing siding onto open space is always problematic for the tenants and homeowners.

There is a new road under construction, the Coonagh/Kilisheen Road and with a link into Moyross and that will have cycle ways and walkways. This is a positive development for the area. Another positive intervention is the new Moyross Community Enterprise Centre and which opened in 2018.

You mention the upgrading of the Park name plates and yes, it is a great idea to have the names in both Irish and English. The Irish language brings a real connection to what was in Moyross prior to the building of all the housing. Another positive development is the All-Weather Pitch, the Handball and Basketball Courts and 3 playing pitches beside the Moyross Community Enterprise Centre.

We would suggest that the important thing to make Moyross a better place to be is to make the new building areas concentrated and not to have housing constructed at distances from other housing areas. These building areas should also consider the lessons learned from how Moyross was planned previously and to use these lessons to make the future housing and the open spaces fit for purpose. Additionally, it will be very important to have the Local Authority focused on learning from the lessons of previous building projects.

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

We referred before to the extent of Green Spaces in this area. However, it is not understood if this is future open space to be developed for recreation and sporting purposes or if it is to be used for housing construction. In terms of Landscaping there is little or no tree planting. There would appear to be issues in maintaining the open spaces and there is a considerable volume of litter scattered on the Green Spaces. As mentioned earlier, many houses are situated adjacent to small green spaces. All appear to be problematic and based on the extent of wire and railings that have been constructed on the back garden walls there would need to be a review on how to deal with this problem.

On the positive side, you have the Moy Garden Project, and you have a new Poly Tunnel. You also have been working with Moyross Adult Education to combine gardening and woodcraft classes that will educate learners on how to grow fruit, vegetables, and flowers using the Poly Tunnel. You have wonderful plans and works in progress. Well done.

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

All the school classes have added aspects of Nature and Biodiversity into their Curriculum. This includes the study of ecosystems, habitats, and the life cycles of plants and animals. They also study farming and food production. Environment is a major part of the school curriculum and you have engaged with the Living Out Loud (LOL) group that facilitates children from 7 to 15 to raise awareness of environmental issues. You have 40 apple trees in the grounds of Moyross Community Centre. This is wonderful – to have children and even adults experience the growing and tasting of fruit.

We are delighted to see that you maintain a native hedgerow around the Community Garden. We need more hedgerows and more wildlife and you are facilitating this.

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

You are “steeped” in Sustainability! It has taken some time for the world to understand this concept, but it is now in the TV, Radio, Computers and Newspapers. And you in Moyross are doing your best to promote and to work on Biodiversity. You are aware of global environmental issues – and the best place to begin is in your own back garden or housing area. You have a recognition of Food Waste, you use double sided printing, the Moyross Community Enterprise Centre segregate and recycle cans, bottles, plastic, glass – everything!

This is a great lesson. It is on all the media now. And you in Moyross are doing your best. Start at home. Well done!

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

Everywhere we go in Limerick we see TLC! What a great idea and promoted by Limerick City and County Council as well as the J P McManus foundation. What a great morning you had with 98 adults and 80 children coming together to make Moyross clean.

Yes, there are problems with Litter everywhere. It is an Irish problem – but people are now aware of it and, critically they are doing something about it. The way to deal with it is to continue to deal with it regularly – and this means once a week at a minimum. We spoke to some residents who were cleaning up litter to the side of their houses. This is how things change. Getting out and doing something about litter generates others to do the same. Keep up the good work. And start with your own backyard! Your Council continues to work on dealing with litter but it is us and you that can really help to deal with it.

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

The fact that you in Moyross have become involved in Tidy Towns for over 9 years is testament to what can happen when someone suggests getting involved. Any Tidy Towns group will tell you that it takes time. That is not the issue. The issue is using your own pride to deal with the area you live in. Do that first. We noticed many areas where

residents were making great efforts to their properties clean and litter free. Doing this catches on and your residential streets and housing areas will, in the longer term, be the better for it.

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

The new road from Coonagh to Knocklisheen and with a link to Moyross should enhance the Moyross area. It would be worthwhile having a discussion with LCCC on how the entrance roads could be enhanced with tree planting and mass planting of Daffodil Bulbs. Every small change for the better enhances any area. And when the Approach Roads are changed to be more attractive, so also will your community respond.

**Concluding Remarks:**

We must admire the resilience of your Moyross Community. You have great Community Centres, Schools, Church, Watch House Centre, Library and new housing that should enhance Moyross. You have worked on Tidy Towns for over 9 years now. Things will change for the better, that is for sure.