

# Tidy Towns Competition 2019

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Limerick City - Cathair Luimnigh</b>	Ref: <b>2121</b>
County: <b>Limerick</b>	Mark: <b>312</b>
Category: <b>H</b>	Date(s): <b>20/07/2019</b>

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2018</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2019</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	44	45
Streetscape & Public Places	60	41	41
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	40	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	36	37
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	24	25
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	58	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	26	26
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	37	38
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>312</b>

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Limerick City Centre (Cathair Luimnigh) chuig comórtas Náisiúnta na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2019. Thank you for your entry form, map and supporting documentation including a three-year plan plus: 2015-2018 plus 2019, and various appendices including Limerick Tidy Towns Monthly Award Winners 2014 – to date. Your committee of twenty-two has representatives from the commercial, retail, hospitality, educational and local authority sectors. This all-encompassing group will ensure that information on your activities and projects will reach a vast number of the community. In addition, over one hundred volunteers help when needed. We are delighted to hear of this success. You keep the rest of the community informed of your events through posting on Twitter, Facebook, articles in newspaper etc. which ensures that all age groups are catered for. We encourage your use of Twitter and Facebook as often those living away from your community like to know what's going on 'back home' and so access your pages/ accounts to see photos or read about upcoming events. You have been involved in the Tidy Towns competition for the past eight years and since then you have received two bronze awards in recognition for your hard work and commitment. Well done and keep up the good work which you know is appreciated by the whole community.

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

Limerick has a rich architectural and cultural heritage which is evident as one walks around the centre of the city. With the wide River Shannon passing through the city you have many historical structures located along its banks. There are also many fine churches in your city – St Mary's Cathedral, St Michael's, the Franciscan Church and Friary, St. Augustine's, St Saviour's, Church of the Sacred Heart and St Joseph's. Each of these are on a centre city site and have an active streetscape. We also admired the Hunt Museum, the Court House, the Potato Market, the former Presbyterian Church (now offices), Limerick City Art Gallery (formerly a library), Leamy House and the beautiful five-arch Sarsfield Bridge. Your main shopping and commercial area is vibrant and here too boasts some fine structure. We like the idea of the Monthly Awards and then one of these becoming the Overall Annual winner. Giving an award is a commendation for good work undertaken and so we have no doubt that those who receive the awards are delighted to receive this recognition. The streetscape was in the main, very well presented and we liked that residential areas are close to the main commercial areas which ensure activity on the streets when business close their doors at 6pm. Limerick, like many villages, towns and cities throughout Ireland, is marred by vacant properties and dereliction. We see that you engage with LCCC to try to progress this issue and we noted that the City now has a dedicated team of workers who are focused on resolving this issue. We await to hear of progress in due course. We loved that you have a LEED Gold Standards building – not too many in Ireland as yet. You have a number of projects you are advancing in this category and we look forward to a future visit to see progress.

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

Westfields is a spectacular Park with numerous access points for the pedestrian. While there are a large number of trees, we loved the openness which gives a degree of safety/ security to individuals who enter on their own. Seats are provided along the footpaths with litter bins placed in selected areas. The large wetlands in the centre had a great variety of waterfowl when we visited. We admired the views across the River from Barrington's Pier. You have a number of sporting facilities associate with the river – Curraghgour boat club (est. in 1877 as noted in the sign), Limerick boat club and Shannon rowing club. The Peoples Park is quite different from Westfields as it is laid out quite formally. Footpaths radiate from a circular area which is home to the Spring Rice Memorial. There are various structures in this park – the pavilion, the bandstand, the drinking fountain etc - set amid formal planting beds which had great splashes of colour. Finally, the mature trees, neatly trimmed hedges and well-tended grass areas make this park a very pleasant location in the centre of your city. Colour planters were noted in the main shopping and commercial areas. The hard landscaping in front of the Railway Station was admired but we suggest that some trees (perhaps long the road edge) would improve the area by making it less barren. The Bridges in Bloom project is successful.

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

With Westfields, the Peoples Park, other green areas, the mature trees and hedges and the River Shannon you have a great variety of habitats for wildlife. We must also remember that birds use crevices in buildings as nesting sites. We noted the bee hive in the grounds of the Hunt Museum with bees entering and leaving as we watched. Bug hotels are fascinating for children and so we were delighted that St. Mary's Men's Shed have made some for you. You have had many talks and field trips arranged with BirdWatch Ireland which are offered free of charge to the public – we hope they are well attended. Have you any swifts? The population has declined dramatically in recent years so keep your eyes open for nesting sites and report them. You can buy (or make) swift nesting boxes to encourage new nesting sites. Ask your BirdWatch Ireland member for details of where /how to install them.

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

Many communities struggle with this category which is unfortunate and so we were delighted to see that you have embraced this category and have undertaken a number of projects/initiatives. We noted the location of St. Mary's Men's Shed as we meandered around. We see the National Schools are involved in the Green Flag scheme and we commend the teachers and pupils for participating in this excellent extra-curricular activity. You mention various projects being undertaken – replacing city lighting, reusing litter pickers, promoting the WEEE programme, the 'Story of a Plastic Bottle' poem shared on Facebook, holding composing talks, etc etc. We were delighted to see that you and other sections of Limerick City are engaged with the idea of Sustainability as we must rethink the way we use the resources of the planet. We throw away a considerable amount of food which also means we thrown away the packaging in which the food was contained. Do you know of members in the community who fix items – bicycle repairs, small electrical repairs, phone repairs, shoe repairs, dressmakers, furniture restorers etc etc ...the list is endless. Make a list 'Limerick – Where Can I fix It?' and put it on your Facebook page so that the community can access it. This will be invaluable and you can add to the list as you hear of others who repair goods. We noted the rent a bike scheme in a few locations as we walked around – are these well used? Is there a cycle tour of Limerick for the tourists?

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

Limerick is a large urban area and considering its size we are delighted to report that litter was minimal when we visited. You have a number of groups in the city who are involved in litter pick-ups and we note that some businesses also clean outside their premises. We remember that some years back ALL commercial property owners swept outside their premises in towns and cities! We noted a number of empty poles – do an audit, make a list and give it to the area engineer requesting that these be removed. Signage and poles are clutter and should only be installed when absolutely necessary. We noted in Limerick and elsewhere the number of unnecessary poles along the streets. We read that the phone box which was no longer in use was removed ... excellent. The yellow bollards and black and yellow kerbs need repainting as the paint is worn and unkempt. The sign hanging on the gate of the Peoples Park giving information on opening hours is extremely ugly and detracts from what are beautiful gates and piers. This should be urgently removed and if a sign is required – we question if one is needed – it should be discrete and fixed either to the left or right of the piers. We note that weeds are sprayed by the council using herbicides and that this year they will use a less toxic weed killer to control weed growth. Other urban areas have carried out this practice and while it is not as effective and must be done more often, it is more environmentally friendly.

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

We loved that residents live in and close to the centre of the city which gives vitality to the streets in the evening. These residences are three and four storey over basement and are, in many instances, divided into two /three units. You have great streets of residential properties (albeit some are now used as offices). We admired the houses in The Crescent, Glentworth Street, Mallow Street, Pery Square, etc. It is wonderful to see that most of these fine Georgian buildings are maintained to such a high standard. Some of the building are unfortunately unoccupied but we feel this is temporary as buildings such as these are rare and it is only a matter of time before their value is appreciated once again. Your residents' associations are active and control litter in their area in addition to tending to their own properties. Please commend them for this.

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

The main streets had good road surfaces although road markings were worn in quite a few areas. We admired that O'Connell Street had wide footpaths as this is a main shopping street where there is a large volume of pedestrians. There are pedestrian crossings at most junctions and in some cases pedestrian islands in the middle of the road (e.g. at the junction of Henry Street and Lower Mallow Street). We noted the lack of cycleways – hopefully this is something the engineers are examining as in most large urban areas cycling is the fastest means of transport. We admired the pedestrian path segregated from the traffic by trees and a grass margin on Condell road.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

We were delighted to visit your city again which we have visited many times before.

A little advice on filling up the form and producing the map(s). In the Entry Form, please number the projects as, New N1, N2, N3.... Maintained M1, M2, M3 .... and Future Projects FP1, FP2, FP3 .... and please number them consecutively in the Entry Form. These numbers to be transferred onto the map(s) so that the adjudicators can locate the projects and see your hard work. Needless to say, attendance at seminars etc will not be transferred onto your map(s). Please then provide a legend for the map(s) which makes the adjudicators visit more rewarding.