

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SIXMILEBRIDGE**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	24	23
Landscaping	40	25	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	22	22
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	182	180

Sixmilebridge, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for returning the completed entry form. You have outlined your problems well without exaggeration. The village has undergone a major sewage development scheme and left a scar as a result. Your efforts to liaise and work with other agencies are commendable and you should pursue this policy. You will need to update your long - term plan periodically and ideally as a committee you should list ten projects to be tackled each year. Overall, you have progressed well but you are not getting the full co-operation of many individuals, and this is evident from many poorly kept premises and open spaces.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Public buildings are well presented and the school has been freshly painted and looked well on adjudication day. There are many fine buildings around the lower and upper square and some are very well presented. However, there are some small unattended open spaces that present an image of untidiness. The freshly painted shop fronts like Mulreadys Foodstore help to raise your standards. Your biggest problem is lack of co-ordination and full teamwork. The use of open spaces and margin areas by traders is not helping your efforts. In particular the area from Mount Ivers is really in need of improvement. Many rusty corrugated roofs are an eyesore and need attention. The forecourt of Teach na Cuirte should be landscaped and adequate car parking left, similar to the square. The building itself would benefit from painting. There is commendable evidence of good community effort in and around the housing estates. The gable end of the Tourist Information Point needs painting also.

LANDSCAPING

The tree planting at the square is now enhancing this development. In general, the weakness throughout relates to badly kept open spaces and poorly presented gateways. It is acknowledged, that as a committee, you are limited in what you can do directly, but convincing others to play their part is part of the challenge for you as a committee. The entrance from Newmarket on the Shannon road is well presented with freshly cut grass margins. The Limerick approach is poor and needs attention. The development of Killfinnachta Church for community purposes will give a valuable stimulus to the committee and further enhance this approach road.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have good scope for increasing your marks in this section.

The river offers you an opportunity to make further progress. The nesting boxes at the Greyhound Bar are attractive. You should aim to improve the interpretation of wildlife in this section.

LITTER CONTROL

In general there is no apparent litter problem, although litter was in evidence at the upper square and the gutters outside the Pharmacy had a good deal of litter, while the litter bin at the stop sign was overflowing on a Tuesday evening adjudication.

TIDINESS

Most of the untidiness is caused by poor attention to small open spaces and some badly presented buildings already referred to. The village would benefit from a painting blitz and you might consider such a suggestion over two seasons. Signage at the square is now becoming excessive and consequently ineffective.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

This is one of your strong points and many housing estates and individual houses are excellent, with well landscaped front and side gardens. Some old small houses are freshly painted and enhance the village by their traditional character.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There is a weakness in the road surfacing, especially on the Limerick approach. Ideally, gutters should be sprayed in May to avoid weed growth. This is work for the local authority and you will need to lobby accordingly. You should consider improved signage and the erection of well designed fáilte signs at the various approach roads.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You have worked hard as a committee, but your efforts are not being matched by some property owners. Try and retain the traditional ethos of the village and build on your strengths. Keep up the planting and try and add extra colour by way of more permanent planting. Good luck for 1999.