

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	35
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	29	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	24	22
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	194	187

Sixmilebridge, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Sixmilebridge has persevered in this competition even though handicapped by the amount of infrastructural work which has been taking place (and still is to a certain extent) throughout the village. However, with a considerable amount of work completed to date and the landscaping features which have been put in place now maturing nicely we would suggest that the Committee commence to motivate the community to make a special effort over the next few years so that Sixmilebridge reaps the rewards for the hard work and effort to date. This will mean a greater attention to detail and endeavouring to eliminate the black spots still remaining around the village. It will also mean that all the new residents who will be occupying the many new houses at present being built, be encouraged to assist in your efforts.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

In the main, the buildings in and around Sixmilebridge are well maintained including the Church on the Limerick approach, the Roman Catholic Church and McGregor's pub, the business premises in the square, the Health Clinic, Teach an Cuinte and the School. However, in the case of the School the pink surround walls and the two bins at the entrance gate need to be repainted. The Old House Pub in the Square needs attention – a considerable amount of grass was growing in the chutes. Also the gable wall of the building housing the Tourist Information Point has not been painted, although the need for this was mentioned in the last report. It was noted that a large new business premises is at present in the course of construction near the riverside park and that work is continuing on the renovation of the old Church of Ireland.

LANDSCAPING

The maturing trees and the 40 new trees planted during the year, make Sixmilebridge a very pleasant environment in which to live. The Riverside Park is also very attractive and the circular rose bed promises to be a riot of colour. The removal of the overhead wiring and poles here would make a huge difference. Some of the slates in the covering near the bridge were broken, however. Throughout the village and surrounds there is evidence of planting – shrubs on the Limerick approach, flower tubs with pansies etc in various locations, hanging baskets and a variety of tree planting. The grass in the green areas throughout needed one cutting but as the weather at the time of adjudication was very inclement this could be excused. However, the

grass in the green areas in the centre of a number of housing estates was quite long and would hamper residents enjoying these amenities. The two flower containers at the shrine near the Church were rather drab. It appeared that they are planted with a shrub and also flowers, but the latter were dead at the time of adjudication. The cut stone tubs are attractive and it would be nice to see an explosion of colour here. The planting at the wall of the GAA grounds continues to mature in a very attractive manner and, as suggested by the adjudicator last year, it would be good to continue this to the bare stretch of wall. The picnic area on the Killaloe road is pleasant and was being used on the day of adjudication. The old pump feature on this road needs repainting and the crack in the surround wall needs attention.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

As identified by you as a unique feature, the Owengarney River adds immeasurably to the environment in Sixmilebridge, creating an area shared by all living creatures in the vicinity. The sanctuary for geese near the Greyhound Bar is also impressive and has lost the rather bare look that it had for a number of years.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little litter to be seen on the day of adjudication – the litter bins, which are of a good design and placed strategically throughout the town, were full. However, there was some litter and rubbish around the base of the pump.

TIDINESS

The village and surrounds were mostly neat and tidy with little evidence of weeds at kerbs or walls. However, in some instances such as at the Jamaica Inn and the GAA grounds, weed killer had been used on weeds, leaving a brown area. The area with concrete walls on the road up to Fortwilliam B & B needed attention as there was graffiti here.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most houses throughout the village and surrounds are contributing to the Tidy Towns effort. However, in a number of instances (and especially at the house next to the Church opposite the Health Clinic) the surrounding walls and gates need attention. Estates such as Beechwood Grove and Mount Levers are well maintained throughout. There are still a few derelict houses on the road connecting the riverside square to Frederick Square and a new approach to these is perhaps needed in order to obtain some action. As mentioned above, there are many new residences now being built in Sixmilebridge which need to

be encouraged to join in with your worthwhile efforts to make your home place a better place in which to live and also to visit.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Whilst there has been an improvement, some back areas in the village still need attention. Signage is mostly good, especially the Sixmilebridge Failte signs. However, the Sixmilebridge name sign on the Killaloe road opposite Mount Ivers Court had a corner bent and was very dirty. The approach roads are well maintained to the outskirts of the village with hedges and banks well cut. The plastic Bridgetown B & B sign is out of date and the signs in the square and on the premises for Garney View House B & B need to be refurbished.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There is obviously a great commitment to the tidy towns ethic in Sixmilebridge. When the infrastructural work is finally completed, Sixmilebridge will then be able to enjoy all the good work to date and plan to make the village even more attractive in the future with the help of the present residents and also the new blood coming into the village.