

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	20
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	199	194

Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your submission, complete with map and photographs. You should revisit the development plans of previous years and pick out appropriate updating of them. For next year you should formulate your own one to two year plan and outline a work programme for improvement. Alternatively you should, in association with other agencies commission a village improvement plan that would have community support and commitment.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The village has changed dramatically since the last visit by this adjudicator. You are now entering a new era and the vast amount of new houses and commercial buildings present you with great challenge and opportunity. The existing new houses have been well presented and are further enhanced by appropriate stone wall and tree planting. The new scheme at Ashview Drive will further boost your population and demand on existing services. You have some very fine large houses in the village centre with rich traditional features. Some commercial operations are using signage inappropriate to the ethos of the village. As a committee you can only try and influence them by persuasion. The strong colour is welcome and adds cheerfulness to the area. Some old buildings e.g. the old mill etc. offer potential for change of usage. The amount of development work in evidence during adjudication was extensive.

LANDSCAPING

Much of previous years work is now maturing and illustrates the great value of tree planting and permanent shrubbery development. Development works within the village are not conducive to landscaping but when complete you will have great opportunity to enhance the village core through appropriate landscaping. Tree planting, provided you plant the correct species in the correct place, will prove a highly beneficial act.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The individual effort at the Greyhound Bar, of long standing, to promote wildlife is well acknowledged. It is a valuable service and a popular location for children accompanied by parents. The lovely fast flowing Owey river is a wonderful asset and offers great scope for promoting wildlife. Attractive rivers are a natural amenity of great benefit and provide a variety of leisure facilities. You are endowed with a river of great beauty.

LITTER CONTROL

The "take your litter home" signs are very good and will help with litter control. In general litter control seemed very good and despite the development works in and

around the village, litter was not in evidence.

TIDINESS

Your problems here are numerous and many poorly presented commercial yards, unattended open spaces and dereliction combine to present an image of untidiness. These will become more obvious when the new civil works are complete. The approach road in by the Greyhound Bar is especially poorly presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

You have a serious road surface problem. On adjudication day preparations were underway for new road surfacing. It is hoped that next year will see an improvement throughout the village and environs. The new library is excellent - a splendid restoration and a most appropriate development for a community project. Inside the building has been appropriately refurbished and now offers a great service of learning. The Miller Returns sculpture was very much admired by this adjudicator. It is a startling feature, provocative and indigenous. Approach roads will need to be tackled if you are to raise your marks. This will only happen if you can motivate community spirit. It would be a pity if the new residents were not to play an expected role in the enhancement of the place they have chosen to live in.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

As mentioned Sixmilebridge is a changing village and the commercial, residential and in particular traffic pressures will cause further changes. The traffic congestion at the village bridge is already a problem area. There is a great challenge for planners and the community to ensure that the quality of life does not deteriorate as a result of developments outlined above. Good luck in the coming years.