

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Sixmilebridge**

Ref: **303**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **214**

Category: **C**

Date: **27/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	40	32	28
Landscaping	40	33	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	28	25
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	24	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	20
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	214	199

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your submission and details of work on hand. The village has undergone widespread development in recent years and in particular the road surface throughout has improved significantly. The village is also growing in population and the many new housing schemes are now offering you an opportunity for more participation in the competition. New residents need to be invited to play an active role in enhancing the environment and in most cases will welcome the invitation to participate. The time is also appropriate for a new 3-5 year plan, which you might consider for 2004.

The Built Environment:

There is a great array of period buildings in and around the village. In particular the square has many quality buildings of distinction. You need to ensure they are presented to a high standard, similar to the Credit Union in particular. The Mill Bar and Greyhound Bar offer a good introduction on this approach. Public buildings are well presented e.g churches, school, Halla an Pharoiste, and in particular the Library, together with Joe Meehan and Niall Gilligan. The sign at the Booking Office however is not really appropriate to a village with so many traditional features. You should pursue a policy of strong colours when painting commercial buildings in particular.

Landscaping:

The colourful display of flowers and well presented grass area present a favourable introduction to the village from the Killaloe entrance. However, the exit from the village is marred by an unsightly abandoned car and some untidy material on the left hand side. O'Garvey park has an attractive display of shrubs fronting it. The tree planting at Cappagh Lodge area is good. There is a welcome display of window boxes, hanging baskets and various other floral displays throughout the village. Entrances to new housing estates need to be landscaped and identified with appropriate bilingual signage. In general the landscaping category has improved. Excellent display of roses on the square.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The great amount of wildlife in evidence near the river from the Kilmurray approach is very attractive and visitors were observed feeding the geese on adjudication day. Being endowed with an attractive river you have ample opportunity to promote and popularise wildlife in Sixmilebridge. Well done on your project beyond Mount Ivers. Of course wildlife extends to habitat and provision for feeding of birds, which can be helped by planting food supporting shrubs in and around the village.

Litter Control:

In general litter control was good this year and the village core was very well presented. Well done on the cigarette ends receptacles mounted on the tree guards and elsewhere - lets hope they are effective. There is certainly no reason for the public not using the litter bins etc. in the village core. The anti litter signs are very good.

Tidiness:

Your problems here relate to a number of poorly presented open spaces, dereliction, poorly presented buildings and the storage of beer cans beside The Old House. This site should be screened if it is not going to be built on.

Residential Areas:

Housing estates, without exception are very well presented. There are numerous excellent individual displays of gardens that add great colour to the area. New houses have great opportunity to landscape to a high standard and we would urge developers to bear this in mind. The tree planting of previous years continues to enhance the area and the beech hedging in particular is suitable to this area.

Owengarney Court on Limerick Road is maturing well and will further improve with time. Perhaps in time something could be done about the P.V.C. doors which don't really suit the traditional aspect of the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads are well presented, except the Rossmanagher approach which needs development and grass trimming. There are many pockets of dereliction on this road. Limerick Road and Shannon Road are your strongest and are presented to a high standard - well done. We look forward to the completion of the commercial development at the bridge. The sculpture in the river is quite novel and very strong in presentation. The square has improved in layout and presentation in recent years and car parking seems well disciplined.

General Impression:

Sixmilebridge had a welcome air of brightness about it on a fine June day. It also has an air of prosperity about it, as evidenced by the commercial and residential developments throughout. Your

challenge now is to build on this and ensure the environmental improvements keep pace with other developments. Well done on a good performance.