

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Sixmilebridge**

Ref: **460**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **223**

Category: **C**

Date: **10/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	35	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	30	28
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	223	214

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for application form, sketch map and ancillary documentation. All this information was very helpful on the day of adjudication. Sixmilebridge would appear to have come to the end of most of the disruptive work around the town except for private residential estates which are still expanding. It is now time to take stock and as suggested in last years report put a three/five year plan in place.

It is commendable that you use a partnership approach and co-operate with Clare County Council; the local Primary Schools; FAS, ESB, Bord Gais and the Local Business Association in order to achieve your objectives.

Well done in winning the Clare Tourist Council's "Most Improved Village" award.

The Built Environment:

Overall the town was looking well - the new developments in the Square enhance this area greatly and the restoration of the archway at O'Garney House adds to this renewal of the the Square. However, the little Tourist Information Point building here needs some attention. By the river the Bridge Florists is nicely presented but the Old House on the opposite side of the road has deteriorated and is quite shabby. The advertisement written on an upstairs window for the Chinese Restaurant it now contains is totally out of character for this building. The floating Duck Inn and the

nearby pub are now looking well and brighten up Frederick Square. However, the commercial premises on the other side of this Square need to be painted. Garney View House B/B sign needs to be replaced and the Bord Failte (Failte Ireland) approval sign should be removed as the premises is no longer approved. Schools, Church and the Library in the old Protestant Church very well presented.

Landscaping:

The rose beds in the centre of the town were admired as was the maturing planting on the GAA ground walls. We note that you plan to undertake the same type of planting at the new Soccer pitch when it is completed. The tree planting on the way from one Square to the other enhances this area and leads one pleasantly through a rather bare street.

The provision of a picnic table on the Clonlara road approach is helpful to visitors as there is a space for them to park their cars nearby whilst they picnic. The painting of the village pumps, seats and the bus shelter also helped the overall appearance of the village.

Well done on your hedging project and also your plan to brighten up the springtime in Sixmilebridge with daffodils and bluebells.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

All the planting in and around Sixmilebridge contributes under this category, providing habitats for various forms of wildlife. This also applies to the river and its surrounds.

Perhaps, as suggested in last years report, you could ensure to plant some food supporting shrubs to assist the birds in the winter months.

Litter Control:

We would agree with your assessment that 2004 was a good year for litter control as only a scattering was to be seen on the day of adjudication. A good use of litter bins and cigarette end receptacles is proving effective.

Tidiness:

Mostly the town was presenting a tidy appearance with weed free kerbsides. However, a little debris was noted on the left in the village at the start of the Clonlara road. The clearing of the illegal dump near the Church/Parochial hall was noted, tidying up this area.

Residential Areas:

Well done to Cappagh Lodge residents for winning the Best Kept Local Authority housing estate award in Clare this year. In fact all housing estates in Sixmilebridge are a credit to the residents and the Committee and are very well maintained. No doubt you will encourage any new residents to join with you in your endeavours. Private houses also are well presented throughout with a good use of colour.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the Shannon approach there was quite an amount of ivy on the bridge adjacent to the name signs for Sixmilebridge and on the Clonlara approach there were stretches of long grass which needed to be cut. Otherwise most approaches were well maintained and signage was quite good throughout.

General Impression:

Sixmilebridge is obviously a town where the residents take pride in their surroundings.

Much work has been undertaken in the last decade which may now be consolidated upon. We look forward to seeing further progress in the years ahead.