

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Sixmilebridge**

Ref: **507**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **231**

Category: **C**

Date: **09/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	34
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	231	223

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the information enclosed with your entry including an excellent map and details of your plan for the soccer pitch. We note that there was no three year plan with this documentation and would suggest that this should now be undertaken. As you mention there is great expansion of population in Sixmilebridge at present with much building being undertaken. Your initiative in undertaking a survey of the new residents is excellent and when this is completed it should form the basis for your new plan. From the entry form it would appear that you do have good support for your efforts with a number of Agencies and the local business people. This is vitally important and your initiative in endeavouring to expand this support is also enterprising.

The Built Environment:

The built environment in and around Sixmilebridge is mostly looking very well. Painting the tourist information point has made a difference in the main Square. The sale of the old Mill should improve that location also when the new developers undertake a project in this space. Frederick Square is unique and deserves to reach its potential. Therefore, the people with the premises on the right here must be encouraged to improve the décor of same. It did look as if preparatory work had been undertaken to date on the premises towards this end. The two Churches were well presented as

indeed was the Garda Barracks. The development of the old Church into the Library is impressive and enhances that area of the town considerably. Once more we mention Garney View House where the B/B sign needs to be replaced and the Shamrock taken down as this premises is not an approved Failte Ireland premises. This has been mentioned on a number of occasions and the Committee should grasp the nettle and endeavour to try and rectify this situation. It was noted that the advertisements in the window of the Old House premises have now been removed and this building is more in keeping with its surroundings.

Landscaping:

Thank you for the detailed plans for the work on the soccer pitch which you have just commenced. The plan as are impressive and will certainly make this area look much better then it is at present and will also encompass and enhance some of the Garda Station surrounds. With regard to the landscaping already in place, the Square by the river looks extremely well and the rose beds here were again admired. The approach roads and entrances to housing estates were also admired and are a credit to Sixmilebridge. The tree planting already undertaken around the town is maturing and will leave a legacy for future generations. The graveyard on the Limerick Road is well kept except the gates here could do with painting. The entrance is rather dangerous for people visiting the graveyard and we wonder could a small parking area be developed here. The trees planted at Teach an Cuirte were especially admired as was the planting which is covering the walls of the nearby GAA pitch to a great extent. Flower containers were noted for their colour but we would suggest that these should be wood, stone or metal rather than plastic. The daffodils planted for Spring colour looked well in the photographs.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The geese and ducks near the Duck Inn seem to have multiplied and increased and constitute a wonderful wild life project. Both the ducks and the geese are obviously comfortable in this area where they have a nice green patch and where they can also access the adjacent river. Whilst the adjudicator was in this area a number of children came to feed the geese and the ducks and they obviously are a feature of the town. Of course, the overall planting throughout also enhances the possibility of wildlife being attracted to Sixmilebridge. We note that you plan to commission a display board of local wildlife and this again will be of great interest to local and visitor alike.

Litter Control:

In regard to litter control and waste management it is good to note the initiative of the School in registering for Green Schools Project. The benefits of this certainly seem to be multiple and the project is exactly what is envisaged under this category. There was not much litter to be seen around Sixmilebridge and obviously your work organising clean ups and the replacement of old bins has been successful.

Tidiness:

Mostly the town was tidy looking and the kerbs weed free. However, as mentioned in your entry form, the amount of building being undertaken at present does present a rather untidy appearance in certain areas. All contractors should be requested to leave the sites in an orderly manner when the project is completed. On the Shannon approach the ivy still appears to be prevalent on the bridge and we would suggest that this be removed.

Residential Areas:

Houses in and around Sixmilebridge were mostly well presented. The new houses opposite Bill McGregor's pub have a very good use of colour and this is welcome. All the new residents, as previously mentioned, should be included in your endeavours for the future. The provision of attractive signs designating the various housing estates is to be commended. It is obvious that the residents do take pride in their place and a man was cutting a hedge on the Killaloe Road and others were also noted working throughout the town. We would repeat that the exteriors walls and the area outside houses must also be of a good standard.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There is still work needed on road verges and signage in an around the village. Some road works were taking place on the Killaloe Road on the day of adjudication. However, near the village on the same road there is very poor roadside verge on this approach. The sign saying "Ducks Crossing" is innovative and humorous.

General Impression:

The general impression of Sixmilebridge is that it continues to impress in regard to the commitment of the residents to their own place. However, it is a case of much done but more to do and the provision of a plan to focus your attention in the next few years would be essential. We wish you well in your continued endeavours.

Second Round Adjudication:

The unusually high increase in marking has placed Sixmilebridge in the upper section of the competition, so that a second adjudication is now accorded. Congratulations to the Development Association and to the people of the village for their achievements to date. The marks awarded by the first adjudicator in mid-June are heartily endorsed by the second, who visited in early August. It should be added that the long side wall of the former drama festival centre was looking shabby and needs attention. The centre of the village is most picturesque, aided by the well presented business premises (though some garish shop signs were out of keeping) and dwelling houses, and by the judicious planting by the river. It is very good news that the old mill is to be developed: its situation as well as its history make it the focal point of the village and it is hoped that this can be revitalised. A great deal of recent and new housing was seen: this adjudicator particularly admired the new terraces in Church Street because they retain the village feeling. Try to discourage the type of suburbanisation which is remote from the village and fails to maintain the feeling of community. It was very encouraging to see from your photographs that Sixmilebridge is bulb-friendly and therefore adorned by daffodils in the spring – such a simple, easily maintained and delightful flower at a time of year when colour is badly needed; it also demonstrates that you subscribe to the concept of Tidy Towns as a year-round activity.