

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Sixmilebridge** Ref: **89**
County: **Clare** Mark: **249**
Category: **C** Date(s): **23/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	24
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	249

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the comprehensively completed application form and copies of the Village Strategic Plan 2005-2008 and update for 2006. No map was supplied this year but one was able to make do and still identify relevant sections of the Village and its environs.

Sixmilebridge has experienced fairly dramatic infrastructural change over the last five years in particular, and like any village of its size this can be a shock to the collective system.

The Tidy Towns committee has taken on board this change and has reacted in a very positive manner in producing a 5 year strategic plan that is detailed but practical in that objectives are achievable.

Already you are in a position to be able to offer a 2006 update, which is very commendable.

The main thing that one notices is the level and scope of activity that you are involved in.

Outside of your external contacts, it is very noteworthy that you have got such positive response and help from your local community.

The Built Environment:

The most positive feature that one experiences when you enter Sixmilebridge these days is the vibrancy of colour that greets you.

Most buildings both commercial and private now have bright colours on premises, I am sure that this did not come about in a whim and the Committee deserve credit for encouraging the owners to make this transformation.

In the Village Square you have a combination of blues, mint green and various shades of beige and oatmeal, a similar trend applies to Pound Street.

The main public buildings as follows were maintained to a very high standard, both Catholic Churches one in

the Dioceses of Killaloe and the other in Limerick, the excellent National School, the Court House and Garda Barracks and in deed the Parish Offices with its bright and appealing dashed front. The practical conversion of the old Protestant Church into a community amenity was a major undertaking but very worthwhile – it looked impressive on adjudication day.

The Courtyard development that houses Tantrums and Dine and Wine is very much in keeping with the existing village streetscape.

It is hoped that the Archway under construction at the base of Pound Street will be of similar standard when completed.

The Business premises were for the most part well presented and recently painted.

There are a few in the main village area that could do with up grading – even a tasteful painting job would suffice and in one case replacing the rotting window boxes would make a big difference to its appearance. It is a pity that the last premises referred to, which has a strong historical significance to Sixmilebridge, cannot be transformed to its former glory.

There are a number of very impressive private dwellings in the core area and on the outskirts of the Village and the owners are to be commended for having them in such pristine condition.

Like other villages Sixmilebridge has its derelict premises and the adjudicator is aware, from the application form, of the steps that the committee are taking to address this problematic issue.

Landscaping:

The schemes that were in place were well presented especially the healthy and colourful stone rose beds that enhance the square and the water feature that is the focal point of the village.

The landscaping at the base of the GAA Club wall is slightly congested and needs to be thinned and some shrubs cut back at the appropriate time.

There were some exceptional private gardens to be seen one in particular on the Limerick road.

The housing estates have contributed by maintaining well planned planting arrangements that give a nice look to their immediate areas.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Duck Inn area is the natural wild life centre of Sixmilebridge in this adjudicator's opinion.

On the evening of adjudication, ducks, water hens, geese and people engaging in a spot of fly-fishing were observed.

It is a boost to have such natural river bank areas available to the community.

The River itself was relatively clean although some algae was noticed at the at bridge area opposite Centra.

We will look forward to seeing the wildlife depiction and information board at a prominent location when complete.

The idea of a wild life specialist being invited to visit the school is very noteworthy.

This and the organising of local field trips area activities that are encouraged each year in most tidy towns reports.

Litter Control:

One has to make allowances that it was the weekend, but there was a proliferation of litter to be seen at where young people congregate at the river rest area in the centre of Sixmilebridge.

This negative is offset when one notes that you organise post weekend clean ups on Mondays so hopefully that will rectify the situation.

Also it behoves these people to have a pride in ones place and desist from the practice of littering.

Keep promoting the message of good litter control as part of your community awareness programme.

Waste Minimisation:

The donation of a shredder to the school and also advising children on the art of reducing waste are excellent initiatives and the Committee is to be commended for these actions

Reduce Re Use is the motto and there is a multitude of information to trigger off ideas in the Race Against Waste publication, which accompanied each application package.

Signing up to the Clare County Council stewardship scheme at bring banks will make the community more aware of the need for better waste management techniques rather than bulk disposal.

Tidiness:

A lot of good work has been going on behind the scenes in the areas of signage and screening of back areas. The problem of ongoing building is something that has to be lived with, but it would be no harm to gently remind

developers to keep active sites tidy.

The signs on approach roads were very visible but there were on or two within the village that could do with a little attention.

Also beware of weed growth in humid times, as it accelerates rapidly.

There was a little too much decayed weed growth, obviously sprayed but not cleaned up, along the village end of the Limerick Road.

Traffic management is needed to accommodate the growing population in Sixmilebridge.

In actual fact an additional over flow car park area is required in the core area of the village.

Residential Areas:

The colour mix in houses in Sixmilebridge has been commented on earlier and this extends to the residential areas as well.

The following were admired for the way that green areas and back areas as well as the "saluting parties" (fronts) have been maintained: the long established Cappagh Lodge, Oakwood.

Church View Houses, the group of Town Houses in Pound Street, the well kept, bar one, houses and gardens (a speciality with these residents) on the Limerick Road and Mount Ivers on the Broadford/Kilkishen Road.

The newer ones Lios Anama, and Owengarney Development on the Limerick Road deserve special mention as well.

It is good to see that new residents are showing a sense of identification with the Village and even though you voice some concerns as regards integration, that will happen quicker than you expect. Little information evenings or mornings are ideal to set the ball rolling.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main entrance for Limerick is excellent with a fine road surface and edges cut back sensitively, the Graveyard is very prominent here and is in top class condition.

The Killaloe entrance (back road to Truagh) a little mixed, some fine private houses but a poor road surface.

The Kilkishen and Newmarket entrances are very acceptable.

There is very little one can do about the narrowness of the roads but walkers beware as these have become very busy with ongoing traffic.

General Impression:

You have listed a number of issues facing you and some of these have been commented upon already.

In general the Committee has got the support of the Community if the collective effort is anything to go by.

A huge improvement has occurred in Sixmilebridge in the last few years and hopefully that cooperative spirit will continue.

You are wished dwell for the future.