

# Tidy Towns Competition 2016

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Sixmilebridge** Ref: **89**  
County: **Clare** Mark: **301**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **14/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	44	45
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	40	41
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	42	42
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	30	31
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	15	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	58	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	33
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>301</b>

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Sixmilebridge is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your application form and additional information. Your development plan 2014 – 2019 was reviewed with interest and contains many worthwhile projects. Elsewhere however you include a 'short term strategies and key activities 2015 – 2016' document. Is there a need for two documents? This may lead to duplication and confusion. Your map is improved for this year but could be enhanced further. Remember that the adjudicator must carry this around the town so the key to the lettering system should be on the sheet itself. Otherwise the map is clear and legible. You have an impressive number on your committee if residents associations are included. You also have a wide range of collaborations with the relevant support agencies and civic bodies. These are essential relationships which will help you achieve your goals.

### Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

Congratulations on the new material enhancements to your built environment. It was excellent that your town is becoming more wheelchair accessible. You are wished every success in the development of Fredick Square – in the name of clarity it would be better to leave descriptions of plans to your development plan and use the application form for projects completed. Similarly projects completed early in 2015 are no longer eligible for points so do be clear as to when actions were undertaken (e.g. at the old railway station). It's great to read that new businesses are opening and existing ones are being revamped. Do use photos here to show the impact of works as these can be more effective than text on its own. The credit union looks fresh and clean on Main Street along with a number of other businesses in the area. Old hoarding next door to Tantrums and Tiaras looks poor, are there plans to deal with this? McGregor's was looking very lively on adjudication day with fresh paint, bunting and flowers. The church is also well presented. The bin and seating area near here need to be cleaned but this is otherwise a pleasant space. The library is a fantastic reuse of a heritage building. The little church is superbly presented heritage feature.

### Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Well done for work completed under this heading. Mature trees at the river and around the square hugely enhance the character of this area. Colourful splashes of flowers were noted across from Centra. Avoid placing containers of flowers on grassy areas as they serve little function here. A beautiful display of roses was admired just off the square near McMahons funeral home.

### Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

This category encourages groups to engage with our natural heritage and in particular to raise awareness among

the community of its value. Please provide more detail on the 'native enclosure'– what species live here? Non-native ducks and geese are to be discouraged as they displace native birds and may introduce disease. The adjudicator wants to see a programme of events or other measures which engage people, such as public walks or talks. Putting up bird and bat boxes is great and well done to the men's shed. Use the results of the tree survey to help you plan for future landscaping in the town with wildlife in mind. Best of luck to the national school as they work towards their biodiversity flag. The car park of Jack Gleeson's provide a beautiful wildlife viewing area with the eye-catching painting. There are grey wagtails here and these are now considered highly threatened.

### **Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:**

Well done on the opening of the Slí an Sláinte. This is an important development in encouraging sustainable transport as well as healthy living. The adjudicator is looking in this category for measures you are undertaking to avoid waste generation, in your own activities as well as across the community. Recycling is considered a standard activity and is relatively low down on the waste pyramid. You will need to do some research on the kinds of projects other similarly sized towns are doing. Your local school's participation in the green flag project is essential in this regard and they will be able to give you guidance. For more helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Your group has been active in this area with the verge trimming, pruning etc. Are there are regular litter patrols? Do you take part in the national spring clean? The green earth project is excellent and the wonderful entries were admired in your application form. At the Mill Bar litter had spilled out of wheelie bins creating a terrible mess. Empty kegs were being stored on the footpath adding to the cluttered appearance. More overflowing bins across from Centra took away from the appearance of the square. The Bus Éireann sign across from the post office needs to be replaced. Old phone boxes on the street are tatty and your group should contact Eircom to have them removed. Cheap advertising signage on the old bridge, along with a wheelie bin, are obscuring this heritage feature. Perhaps Bambury's bookmaker's could be encouraged to sweep the front of the shop where litter and debris had gathered. The bin at the entrance to the library needs to be cleaned. Christmas decorations on Centra should be removed outside the Christmas season.

### **Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:**

Many residential areas were admired in Sixmilebridge on adjudication day and all were presented to a very high standard. Mount levers was admired for its mature trees and neat verges. Mill Court has an eye-catching name stone (it is a shame though that these are not in Irish as well as English). A very attractive enclave of homes was admired just off Main Street but it did not appear to have a name. St. Finachta's deserves a special mention for its delightful garden display which cheered up a dull day. Church view has a beautiful green space with abundant mature trees. Inis Orga has a wonderfully tree-lined entrance and it is time to remove the rubber bands and wooden stakes. Otherwise their trunks will suffer damage.

### **Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:**

The approach from Kilmurry is lush with hedges and mature trees. The welcome sign here is plain but clean. The new parking layout is most welcome. Road surfacing is generally good throughout. A safe footpath across the bridge is urgently needed, it beggars belief that cars are given such total priority in this location.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Sixmilebridge is a historic town with much to offer. You have a clear vision for the town and we wish you every success in realising this. Best of luck.