

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Sixmilebridge - Droichead Abhann Ui gCearnaigh</b>	Ref: <b>89</b>
County: <b>Clare</b>	Mark: <b>333</b>
Category: <b>D</b>	Date(s): <b>30/06/2022</b>

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	46	48
Streetscape & Public Places	80	42	45
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	45	47
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	32	34
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	19	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	38	39
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35	37
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>333</b>

### Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2022. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór. Sixmilebridge is welcome to the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition 2022, thank you for this year's submission and your continued participation since 1991. It has been a pleasure to adjudicate your very pleasant home town. As regards the map included with this year's submission although it was beautifully illustrated it did not feature project designations of M, N or FP as required, try to include these for next year. The Tidy Towns group appears well organised with strong support from the local and broader Community and excellent communication channels. Congratulations on the creation of the Mountievers wild life area and indeed on your Biodiversity Plan, it has been demanding work all round in bringing this project to fruition and all involved are owed a debt of gratitude. The benefit to the community is incalculable.

### Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

The regeneration of the town centre looks superb with its recently surfaced footpaths; the new pedestrian crossing enhances safety and access for all. Work accomplished on street furniture such as heritage plaques, seating, lamp standards and litter bins add a 'finishing touch' to the overall appearance of the area. We anticipate future improvements under the 'Town Centre First' initiative / Town Centre Master Plan. The school, its grounds and its natural stone roadside boundary wall was presented to the highest standard. An old church being used now as a Public Library looks well too; "The Little Church" is charming however some of its window panes appear to be missing. St Finnachta's Church looks a little weather-stained and although there are permanent flowerbeds here the addition of brightly coloured container flower displays could enhance its appearance; the Grotto located across the road is a charming feature. Signage for Sean Murray Car Sales is a bit too large and The Middle Bar and adjacent premises badly need refurbishing to the roadside façade. The built environment of Sixmilebridge was nicely presented this year notwithstanding the number of vacant / derelict premises.

### Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Colourful flower displays within the town centre of Sixmilebridge continue to be well maintained and look wonderful however, don't rely too much on begonias as they are not pollinator friendly.

Well done on participation in the Shannon in Bloom initiative which involved the planting of 8000 pollinator friendly Spring bulbs! That amount of work is phenomenal, the entire community must have been involved. Also noteworthy is planting at McGregor's Hill for pollinators and on the Broadford Road. Your tree management programme is laudable and it is wonderful that it is undertaken in such a professional manner and at a variety of locations. Plans for further tree planting at both the school and at Cappagh Lodge will benefit the community for generations to come as your mature trees do today..

### **Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:**

Your commitment to making public land in Sixmilebridge pollinator friendly is well informed and we anticipate great outcomes for biodiversity and the community. Your use of Facebook to raise awareness and appreciation is applauded as is liaison with Residents Association on biodiversity and mowing regimes in their areas. Congratulations once more on your new Biodiversity Action Plan and on the implementation of one of its recommendations at Mountievers to produce a 'showcase' of how amenity grassland and flowerbeds can be developed into biodiversity friendly areas. If you haven't already done so pass on the following link to residents for an App that can be used for feedback on actions for biodiversity . Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT Count) - National Biodiversity Data Centre ([biodiversityireland.ie](http://biodiversityireland.ie)) The sports grounds look excellent with landscaping to its roadside boundary wall and the little 'Duck' feature at the Duck Inn premises is charming.

### **Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:**

The Active Travel initiative for the Sixmilebridge community which facilitates bicycle travel within the town centre is an excellent initiative; other sustainable actions such as the extension of No Mow areas and perennial pollinator planting at entrances to the town are invaluable for sustainable planting as well as biodiversity. Water harvesting and finding new uses for 'redundant' materials are fine examples of the Global Sustainable Goal 12 "Responsible Production and Consumption" and we wish you success in the acquisition of funding for the installation of a water butt in the town centre. Engagement with schools through the Green Flag Programme and the use of Facebook to promote awareness of sustainable issues is noteworthy. New committee members with a background in 'Green' areas will undoubtedly be a great asset to the Tidy Towns group.

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

Sixmilebridge was very clean on adjudication day which is undoubtedly an outcome of the group's litter management activities; graffiti and dumping were not noted either. We are indebted to the Scheme Workers for their vigilance and management in addition to the Community Development Association for their fundraising and sponsorship. Work on manual weed control and the maintenance of street furniture is favourably acknowledged also. Participation in the National Spring Clean has many community benefits in addition to making the town a cleaner place in which to live. The clean-up of seven approach routes is impressive and it is good to find that the number of bags collected are down on last year! The absence of overhead service cables within the town centre enhances visual amenity within Sixmilebridge significantly. The submission to the council regarding the fifteen vacant / derelict properties will hopefully bring about some action in relation to these.

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

Well done to all that participated in the Painting Scheme offered by Clare County Council; Thomand Terrace looked wonderful on adjudication day. Dwellings within the environs of the school featured visually appealing grassed roadside areas to their boundary walls. The entrance to the Ashfield Drive estate looked lovely and the beautifully managed expanses of green areas with mature trees in the Shannon Road estate were especially admired. The playground in the latter estate enjoys good maintenance and the car parking area here is well surfaced and lined. Engagement with residents Associations is beneficial to all and we applaud actions to inform and give practical help and support.

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

Digital feedback installations on driver speed at entrances to Sixmilebridge is an excellent safety measure alongside the new pedestrian crossing within the town centre. Other road signs and nameplates were clearly visible and helpful including fingerpost signage. Car parking arrangements which serve both the sports grounds and possibly the school across the road are very good and road surfaces in general are well lined. New stretches of footpath both on the Broadford Road and within the centre enhance both pedestrian safety and visual amenity. Landscaping at entrances from approach roads was admired in all instances.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

The small town of Sixmilebridge is very beautiful especially in respect of its refurbished

town centre; the number of vacant / derelict premises especially within the core of the town is problematic but the actions taken in respect of these by the Tidy Towns group will hopefully bring about a resolution at a 'not too distant' future date.