

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CROOKE**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18
Landscaping	40	22
The Built Environment	40	26
Litter Control	40	26
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	168

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Although there are a number of common factors between this centre and Passage East, it is being adjudicated as a separate entity. Because it is a dispersed community and also because of the significance of the name, it is felt imperative that a village nameplate be acquired - for both approach roads. Adjudication began at the 30 mph sign on the Dunmore road and concluded at the Passage East sign.

The revised emphasis in the Tidy Towns programme on the devising of a structured 3 or 4 year programme for the development and better presentation of the centre, will require the Committee to give some thought to this aspect of their work over the next months.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The views over Waterford Harbour are a major amenity, drawing attention to the presentation of the traditional dry-fill random rubble walls on the sea side of the road. The Sports Grounds and Playing Field, while themselves were very well presented, their foreground parking area and entrance areas were materially below par. The ancient Church grounds nearby were excellent, but the approach road and parking area outside requires immediate attention.

LANDSCAPING

Due to the spread out nature of the centre, it is necessary to create a sense of cohesion a feeling of entity for the disparate elements of the village. Landscaping can certainly help in this objective. The grounds of the Catholic Church were superbly presented as was Riverside House nearby. The delightful manner in which the trees almost meet overhead on the Top road gives a very pleasant feel to this area. Houses, white-washed in the traditional style, for example, the stables and rock lodge - reinforce the traditional nature of the settlement. Attention is directed to the need to present linking roads in a appropriate manner.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church building itself located in its superb grounds was quietly and suitably imposing. Minor amounts of nettle and weeds at the base of front-facing wall detracted from the overall presentation of the School. The black painted capping of the School wall was excellent while sections could, with advantage, be repainted shortly. "Tauranga" and "Sloe Hill" House were very well presented. Gaultier Credit Union building itself was pleasant but the rusting gate detracted from the overall presentation.

LITTER CONTROL

Overall litter management was of a high order throughout the centre and particularly good at the Church area. Good litter bins were in position at the shop but more are needed in the GAA grounds and that entrance area.

TIDINESS

Some weeds at the base of the walls at St Michel were a disappointment. The area opposite the Church and shop were well presented and grass was appropriately cut back. A gate is needed at the top of the school grounds to finish off the entrance area here.

Because of the new houses being built at the top of the link road near the Sports Ground, an area has been left between the existing road surface and the new pavements. It is important that this area be incorporated into the road structure as otherwise the resultant gap will undoubtedly become a receptacle for weed growth, grass and general spoil. The pillbox below "Sloe Hill" House needs to be tidied up.

In general, the main thoroughfare was very well presented but the back roads as indicated did not achieve the same high standards.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The Harbour View estate above the Credit Union deserves energetic remedial action. The roads and pavements surfaces are badly broken up. The communal grassed areas are suitably cut but the informal parking of equipment here is not appropriate. The section of the kerbstones were painted and weeded and this very exemplary standard should be striven for throughout. The housing estate above the School achieved a good standard except for houses which are perhaps holiday homes and not being maintained to the same standard. Hillside Drive was well presented and Glór na Mara was excellent.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The hedges were appropriately cut back on the top road and similarly on the Passage East road. Unfortunately, some of the superb, traditional, dry-fill random rubble wall is beginning to unravel here and early remedial attention is called for. This delightful wall structure is critical to the appropriate presentation of the centre.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The name "Crooke" and the centre "Crooke" are well known through history and it is sad that the centre is not equipped with a village nameplate. This should be given top priority. Largely a residential overflow location to Passage East, the centre has however, its own identity, facilities and attributes which equally deserve attention and enhanced presentation.

Carefully preserve the views currently available overlooking Waterford Harbour and give attention to the early establishment of a clear-cut dividing line between Crooke and the surrounding rural areas especially on the Dunmore East approach road.