

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **PASSAGE EAST**
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	24
Landscaping	40	32
The Built Environment	40	33
Litter Control	40	29
Tidiness	20	18
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	213

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Passage East is a delightful entity with charming well presented Squares which have an integrity born of their topography but strengthened by judicious use of co-ordinated colour schemes, planting and street furnishings.

The "Welcome" sign on the Dunmore East road was a nice gesture.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Waterford Harbour itself is a main amenity and attribute of the village. More attention should be given to the wild goats on the hill as most visitors can come and go without being aware of them. Seabird and other wildlife, by the introduction of suitable habitat, should also be encouraged.

The delightful walkway, the Park area is a most agreeable amenity which would be improved by better signage.

The Public Toilet area and the Picnic area beside it are both agreeable. However, much more fulsome planting is called for in the attractive, semi-exposed aggregate, flower tubs in this area. Broadly speaking with the new emphasis on the environment, where possible ground planting is to be preferred. Where tub planting is resorted to, please ensure that very fulsome planting takes place for best effect.

LANDSCAPING

The topography of the centre together with the imposing backdrop of the cliffs behind you, make for a very dramatic and pleasing impression on the visitor. Liberal use of traditional whitewashing should be encouraged. The whitewashed stone at the side of the Dunmore East approach road are a delight. Flower planting at the "Yield" sign at the exit from the Strand area and tree planting here is excellent. The practice of painting kerbstones is to be encouraged. The triangle flowerbed in the Square was a delight as was the planting alongside the wall by the amenity area. The round flowerbed at the pump was very attractive. The Car-Ferry ramp and facilities were well presented.

The dramatic cliff area with the very high Church is a resource which does not appear to be adequately offered to visitors. The new Tidy Towns programme invites Committees to generate a 3 or 4 year development programme. Perhaps this aspect could be examined within that context.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The unique Squares format should be highlighted as much as possible. They feature many individually very fine houses but it is their collected entity which makes them such a joy. Please continue to give attention to the small neat window boxes, hanging baskets, shutters and other individually minor elements which combine to produce such a delightful entity. The fine newly constructed White House at the Strand area is a great addition to this location. The Community Hall area featured very fine planting of flowerbeds. Please encourage the removal of inappropriate plastic signs at Farleigh and also at Twomey's public houses.

LITTER CONTROL

While litter management generally was acceptable there was a surprising amount noticed at various locations. Some litter had been dropped at the village nameplate on the Dunmore road. There was a disappointing extent of it at the Picnic area and around the Toilets.

Streets generally seem to be very well presented and recently swept. The Car Ferry area although heavily utilised was free of litter as were the side and back streets in this area. Litter bins were not over

plentiful. The supply of litter bins at the traditional fishermen's houses overlooking the Strand was good.

TIDINESS

Inevitably, certain amounts of clutter, bustle and activity is associated with Harbour areas - there is an activity level and with it, an acceptable extent of clutter and storage in all parts. Within that context, the Harbour area was very good. The remainder of the village was without blemish. Do be careful of the presentation of the area beside buildings, as there is a temptation to permit spoil and equipment, perhaps no longer necessary or required, to accumulate there.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The presentation of the residential Squares are a true delight. In addition, the traditional fishermen's terrace overlooking the Strand was exceptionally well painted with suitable and appropriate tree planting. Perhaps more use could be made of suitable window boxes which add so much colour and vibrancy to houses. Some of the lesser Squares would benefit from the same enthusiastic and energetic coordinated painting schemes.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

While the village nameplate was well presented on both approach roads but especially on the Dunmore East road, more liberal planting was needed for best effect on the Waterford approach. This sign was in need of washing. The "Beware of Falling Rocks" sign which is badly disfigured, needs to be repainted or replaced. Grass had been well removed from the dry-fill random rubble wall on the sea side of the Crooke approach and also on the land side. This added greatly to the quality of the approach roads. It is critical that the section of this dry-fill wall, which has begun to unravel receive early remedial attention. The Waterford road did unhappily have a disappointing extent of litter. A number of unpainted walls would be very much enhanced by an annual whitewashing.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Passage East is a delightful, atmospheric, colourful and well presented centre. The Committee should give attention to the development of a long-term programme extending into all the Squares, the standards currently achieved by the best of them. Please remove intrusive and out of scale plastic signs and whitewash buildings and walls where appropriate.

Passage East has achieved a very high standard in the Tidy Towns Competition and is poised to achieve significant honours, nationally, especially if it adopts a planned structured approach to its future development.

All associated with this year's entry are warmly applauded for the standards which they have secured.