

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **WATERGRASSHILL**
County : **CORK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	24
The Built Environment	40	26	24
Landscaping	40	26	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	15
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	17	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	173	167

Watergrasshill, Co. Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your area map and the detailed information included in your application. It is encouraging to note that you are working in close co-operation with so many statutory bodies. At this stage of your participation in the competition you should draw up a basic 3/5 year development plan. This is now a requirement of the competition and will help you approach your work in a more co-ordinated manner. It is imperative that you consult with the County Council in formulating your plan. Your involvement with Coillte will provide the community with an invaluable natural amenity. Your litter awareness programmes with the local schools and the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides are commended.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Roman Catholic church was greatly admired and its restoration is a credit to the community. In general the houses are well presented. Your work in enhancing the appearance of the derelict house at the Knockraha Cross deserves praise. The construction of the community centre and the sports complex was noted, as was the construction work on the road leading to the school. McCarthys Commercial premises was very impressive, while the other business premises were well presented. Every encouragement should be given to premises to refrain from the erection of neon and plastic signs. The wall beside the bus shelter needs to be repainted. Your plans for the Fells Piers are noted and encouraged bearing in mind their historical significance. The school and the Church of Ireland church are also well maintained.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping throughout the village was to a very high standard. There are some excellent examples of what can be achieved with green roadside areas through the imaginative use of shrubs and flowers. The hanging baskets on the Dublin road were admired. Flower boxes and baskets were used to good effect on private residences adding great natural colour. The shrubs and planting round McCarthys Commercial is highly commended. The grotto also looked well, although the grass around the grotto was overgrown. The trees on the Dublin road have a very strong visual impact.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your plan to develop a nature trail is a good illustration of what can be achieved with natural resources. You are also complemented on your proposal to incorporate bilingualism on the route signs. There are also other natural resources in the area which should be explored. It is recommended that you consult a local wildlife expert and incorporate their suggestions in your development plan.

LITTER CONTROL

Your programme for litter control deserves praise. Litter does not appear to be a problem. This is a remarkable feat considering the volume of traffic that passes through each day. However, there was some litter around the bus shelter and the national school.

TIDINESS

Overall the village has a tidy appearance. The maintenance of the derelict building at the Knockraha cross has already been commented on. However the area at the back of this house requires attention, particularly the abandoned carriage which is very noticeable. The positive steps you have taken to attend to the derelict house on the Bartlemy road have been noted. There was a lot of weeds in evidence around the school, at the gable and the house opposite the bus shelter. The Esso station should be complemented on its tidy appearance. Some of the street benches need to be repainted.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are a number of excellent examples of well presented houses and gardens. The house opposite the Lakeside B&B is a superb example of a well maintained residence. The standard of presentation was very high among the residents of Meadow Court Estate. St Stephens Terrace is also commended. A number of houses should attend to the paint work on their garden walls.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The two main approach roads looked very well. The verges on the Bartlemy road need to be trimmed and the wall still requires attention. The nicely paved footpaths are well maintained and looked very well. The car park was also very tidy. It was noted that a new traffic calming measure is being introduced. It is hoped that these plans will alleviate the traffic problem. The adjudicator found the speed at which traffic passed through the village almost intimidating. You are wished well in your endeavours to rectify this situation. Recommendations should be made to businesses on the main street to restrict the amount of street signs and produce they leave outside their shops.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village is making good progress in this competition. This is despite the external problems it is encountering, most notably traffic. Should problems should be highlighted in any development plan you undertake. You are wished continued success in your efforts.