

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	22	21
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	24	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	19	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	174	169

Crooke, County Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed entry form and map which was most useful and helpful on the day of adjudication. It is good to see the large number of people on your Committee. It is also noted and to be commended that you co-operate with the Local Authority and FAS. The adjudicator would also suggest that you would contact the Regional Tourism Authority, Telecom Eireann, the National Rehabilitation Board and the ESB who would be delighted to give their help and assistance. It would help your Committee enormously if you could produce a plan which should be a very simple document, to cover a period of 3 to 5 years and which should set out clearly your objectives for each year covered. Do not set unrealistic objectives - a limited number which are achievable each year is far better and more likely to yield results. Most of the expertise will be found in your own Committee. Do keep your plan short and simple and it will be an invaluable guide for your Committee and is something which can be built on over the coming years.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Overall the built environment is well maintained. The GAA building looked particularly well, painted in red and white, and it has a most interesting sign which depicted the local and adjoining parishes - the artwork looked very well. The graveyard was neat and tidy - the adjudicator would suggest that the smaller gate be painted and the weeds be removed from the lovely stone wall and that the car park here be kept neat and tidy. No doubt the rubble will be removed from the ditch area. The School was very well maintained but the wall will need painting. The Pump area is a nice feature and the grass here needs to be tidied up with the pump itself needing a little touch up. The Church again was well maintained and kept clean and tidy. The area around the Shop was also well presented.

LANDSCAPING

On the Crooke road the planting in front of the hedge is maturing nicely. The open green space at the entrance to the housing estate was maintained in an excellent condition. The grass was neatly cut and it had an excellent choice of shrubs and plants. These are also nicely maturing in this area. Well Done to All. Trees are a very important plant in the village landscape. When drawing up your plan you can seek out areas in the village where trees would enhance the environment. Do take care before embarking on new planting and study carefully the placing of trees, and the choice of species.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You as a Tidy Towns Committee have an important role to play in protecting and increasing the wildlife in your Community. It will be a new area of activity for your Committee and no doubt you have experts in this area. A good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats in your area and see what species of animals, birds, insects that these will attract. If you need help in identifying local wildlife habitats or getting projects off the ground, guidance is available from the Conservation Volunteers of Ireland who will be only too glad to give you whatever help or assistance they can. Look to gain the involvement of all members of the Community and focus on school and youth groups using the opportunities to impress upon them the importance of local flora and fauna and you will be surprised how responsive to the environment young people are.

LITTER CONTROL

Overall your litter control is very good and especially around the area of the Shop where there were just a few pieces of litter observed, some at the stool and an odd bit on the grass margins. The provision of litter bins in the right place has no doubt helped enormously.

TIDINESS

Overall the area is tidy and well cared for. Perhaps some of the backroads need to be trimmed. The open green spaces in the housing estate towards the school end and overlooking the sea do need attention. Some areas are untidy. Gates to fields and open spaces would need painting.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residents are maintaining their properties very well although in some areas the boundary walls need painting. The houses in Hillside Drive are well cared for overall. The open green space in front of some of these houses need to be tidied up - cut grass was left in heaps and again boundary walls in some instances need attention. The adjudicator would suggest, in that open green space, that more tree planting and shrub planting would improve the whole appearance here. There was some wonderful displays of flowers and some lovely colour schemes used on the houses. The private dwellings were all maintained well and new houses were in the process of completing their landscaping.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The roads in the housing estates need resurfacing especially in front of the 2 storey houses and the road approaching it. Weeds need to be removed at the footpaths and on the road verges. The main approach roads were neat and tidy.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Overall Crooke is well presented and that includes the Church, School, Shop and residences. It would help your Committee enormously to draw up your working plan for the next 3 to 5 years which will give you goals to achieve. To-date you are doing very good work and no doubt we will see the fruits of this in the years ahead. Do keep up the good work - Well Done!