

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	22	22
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	26	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	15	13
Residential Areas	30	21	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	20
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	181	174

Crooke, County Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed entry form and map which was most helpful and useful on adjudication day. You continue to have a large number of people on your Committee and you also have an Estate Management Committee which is welcome and no doubt helps with the work of your Committee. Again, I would ask that you submit a 3 to 5 year plan which clearly sets out your objective for each year covered. It would help you enormously to achieve targets each year. The expertise needed will be found in your own community and further advice which you may need will be available in the wider local community. It is good to see that you continue to work with the Waterford County Council and FÁS. The adjudicator also suggests that you contact the Regional Tourism Authority, Telecom Éireann, the National Rehabilitation Board and the ESB who would be delighted to give their expertise. Your plan can be short and simple and will be an invaluable guide for your Committee. Do consult the Tidy Towns Handbook which was sent out to your Committee this year.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The built environment continues to be maintained very well overall. The graveyard was cut well but the small gate needs to be painted. Also remove the rubble etc from the stone wall and we would suggest that it be cleaned and repaired so that the stone is exposed. The gate to the field does need repairs and painting. The grass verge by the wall needed cutting. The credit union again was presented very well but the gate should be painted. The church was maintained in excellent condition. The gates and railing had some rust spots and would need to be painted. The boundary wall of the school needs painting but the grounds continue to be maintained very well. The GAA building again continues to be presented very well. A footpath outside the shop would improve this area.

LANDSCAPING

The open green spaces in the Harbour View area need more regular cutting. It was noted that some tree and shrub planting has taken place in this area which is most welcome. The tractor and trailer would need to be removed from there, as do the lobster pots. The planters need weeding and the shrubs to be better maintained. Again, some more planting of trees and shrubs may be needed here. Do seek advice on the most suitable location and the selection of the trees and shrubs need to be used. In

Hillside Drive you have done some planting of trees. Do give them care and attention so that they will grow and mature healthily. The open space at the corner to Harbour View is maintained in excellent condition. It contains a lovely selection of plants and shrubs which are well cared for. Again, there is a lovely display in front of the houses facing the bay, which are kept neat and tidy.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Committee should identify an area which can be developed and preserved for wildlife. Again, I would suggest that you contact an expert in your community who would be glad to give you help and assistance. The Irish Wildlife Conservancy are another organisation who would be only too willing to give advice. Also, there is some information contained in the Tidy Towns Handbook which your Committee received this year regarding wildlife and natural amenities. Perhaps you could focus on school and youth groups who may have already done projects on wildlife in their local environment. The graveyard hedgerows and roadside verges are the main habitats which you have in the area.

LITTER CONTROL

Your overall management of litter is good. There were a few pieces evident in the graveyard car park and on the green areas in the housing estates. One has to keep vigilant and continue to work hard to keep your village litter free.

TIDINESS

The overall tidiness of the village has improved. The open green spaces do need more regular cutting and the grass cuttings removed. The approach roads were in the main tidy. Again, gates to fields and open spaces do need attention. This is something which should be worked on for next year.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

It is good to have the co-operation of the residents in the area and we have noted that you have an estate Management Committee, which does help enormously. The properties in Hillside for the most part are kept very well. The boundary walls in some of the properties in Harbour View do need attention. There were some lovely displays of flowers and colour schemes used on some of the houses in the estates. The private dwellings were all maintained very well and when the new houses have their landscaping completed it should help the overall appearance of the village.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The roads and parking areas in Harbour View do need resurfacing. The approach roads need the verges trimmed. Perhaps there is a need for more footpaths in the area. The road signs need the grass around them to be trimmed and also the signs to be cleaned.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The church, school and properties continue to be well presented and maintained. You continue to do very good work throughout the community and for this you are to be commended. More work does need to be done on the open spaces and the road surfaces to be redone. Your work has done much to improve the presentation of Crooke.