

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23	22
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	26	27
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	21
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	182	181

Crooke, County Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

This is one of the few villages which has not identified its future annual development step by step in a three- or five-year Plan. To do so would bring several benefits, the most important being a series of self-set goals for the entire community. As well as this, there would be the yearly local review of how you were going – for example, this year it seems that a number of suggestions made by last year's adjudicator have not been followed up: such a review would initiate action on such matters. Your co-operation with local bodies is impressive, and the organisation of, for example, the picking up of litter, is highly commendable.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The very fine Church is well maintained, but, as mentioned last year, its railings could do with painting. Like the pleasant School, its grounds are well looked after. The shop is neatly presented, but the presence of mass-produced signage prevents its being considered for the awards category.

LANDSCAPING

The trim hedges of many private houses contribute tremendously to the overall appearance of the village. There's a delightful roadside herbaceous border in the village centre – more of this would of course add enormously to the appeal. The green space at Harbour View appears to be better maintained than last year.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is also one of the few villages where work in this category has not been conspicuous – last year's notes should have been helpful. The mark is being left at the same figure in the hope that you are planning an initiative on the lines suggested, or indeed any other initiative.

LITTER CONTROL

In spite of the committee's efforts, resulting in the village being generally litter-free, Crooke was let down this year by a surprising amount of disposable litter at the Hillside Drive green, and on the road leading up to this estate. Of course litter should not be dropped, but when it is, it should be easy for any householder to go out with a bag and collect it, especially at the time of the Competition.

TIDINESS

There were a number of minor instances of untidiness, which unfortunately worked against a rise of marks in this category. There was kerbside weed on the hill leading up to the GAA park (again, it would only take a few minutes for an adjacent householder to attend to this), a lengthy broken-down post and wire fence at Hillside Drive which was catching wind-blown litter, and the roadside corner at the GAA was unkempt.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are many really beautifully kept private houses with pleasant gardens. This year, the environs of Harbour View were in better condition than last – congratulations to the residents. Unfortunately some of the frontages in Hillside Drive, including the boundary fences referred to in 1999, detracted from their better-kept neighbours, keeping the mark in this category much lower than one would like. The four new houses here looked promising; the same may be said about the new estate being developed between the main road and the sea - it was good to see that tree-planting had already take place; progress will be looked forward to.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Verges were not trim on the immediate approaches, nor were they quite near the centre of the village. Surfaces are generally good, except on the hill leading to Hillside. The graveyard and the surroundings of the ancient church were well tended, with work continuing. The graveyard gate had been nicely repainted.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A village in an unusually pleasant setting, where the immense and commendable efforts of the majority appear to be disregarded by a few.