

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **PASSAGE EAST**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	26	32
Tidiness	20	16	18
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	33
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	225	232

Passage East, County Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The committee has clearly been busy over the past year. Although the new initiatives are not numerous, the effort put into the continual maintenance of what is existing has been considerable. The attitude expressed on your entry form is admirable, and the involvement of so many organisations, businesses and individual householders shows that the work is considered to be important for the community. It appears that you share a Secretary with the Crooke committee – this is probably no bad thing, as the will to improve both centres is obvious from your comments and actions. Please, when you are drawing up your map next year, be sure to mark all those places where work has been undertaken, upgrading completed, or where special attention should be given by the judges – it is unlikely that anything will be missed, but one wishes to be sure. A Plan, showing your targets for achievement each year over a three year period, would do much to concentrate the mind on planning.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Especially when viewed from the ferry, the strong colours of the waterside buildings is most impressive. This year, however, some of these seem to have deteriorated – a derelict building is conspicuous, flanked by a high wall where paint is peeling and by a structure which is for sale: it is to be hoped that the new owner will improve it to match the high standard seen in other parts of the village. (If reconstruction is envisaged, a pitched slated roof is more appropriate than a flat pediment.) The Community Centre is very well kept, and the structure being built to the rear most promising. Shops and other business premises are very well maintained. A rise in marks would have been in order were it not for the very obvious decline of the waterside buildings.

LANDSCAPING

The superb estuarine scene is so eye-catching, it does not require a great deal of man-made enhancement. What has been provided is fitting and well devised. The grassed spaces between village and water are reasonably well tended – on adjudication day, however, more trimming was needed round the seats – but too close an urban-style cut would be inappropriate for these areas; the latter is seen to proper effect at the very neat and charming grotto, and in the grounds of the Community Centre. Tubs, urns, pots, baskets, stone-bordered beds, and window boxes adorn the

village to delightful effect; a real credit to their creators.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Not a great deal seems to have been achieved under this heading – it would be judicious to take note of the comments of last year's adjudicator. The mark is being left as it was, in the expectation that you will be addressing this matter in your long-term Plan.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little litter on adjudication day, except near the Community Centre, and in a side road near the ferry terminal. Congratulations to the whole community.

TIDINESS

Passage East was looking remarkably tidy at the time of the visit. There is a slightly scruffy 'corner' near Journey's End, and the side road to the north of the ferry terminal might be neater, but overall the effect is excellent. (This adjudicator likes the communal clotheslines to the south of the village – they provide colour, and also show that the residents do not suffer from a false sense of primness.)

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The terraces of old houses are presented with great pride. Dormers, bargeboards, windows, doorways are treated with great respect. Some backs of houses are not so well kept, but painting was seen in progress in at least one place. Congratulations to the residents for their hard work and good taste.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Verges on the Waterford approach road could have been trimmer. It was good to see the stonework revealed in what had become overgrown banks on the Crooke road. Whitewashing of walls, where seen, is most effective. Car parks, the telephone booth, the toilets (though a window needs mending) are all kept to a high standard. Electricity poles and wires are unprepossessing: you might approach the proper authorities to have more attractive lamp standards installed.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A really well kept village, making the ferry passage a voyage of discovery which causes a desire to linger as long as possible.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (11/08/00)

There has been a serious drop in the standard of litter control and tidiness since our first visit. Litter control was still good overall in the village but there were some serious lapses and these were in important areas, for example along the foreshore area and in the old stone structure near the public toilets, and indeed around the entrance to the public toilets also. As a result, there has been a serious loss of marks under this heading. The mark is still quite good, which reflects the standard achieved in the rest of the village and if these problems are addressed, marks will be regained next year. There has also been a small loss of marks under tidiness which is associated with the drop in standard of litter control. A nameplate should be provided for the Crooke approach road. On the Waterford approach the welcome sign was in need of refurbishment and the Waterford sign itself needed to be cleaned. All flower displays in hanging baskets were totally dead and unsightly at the time of our second visit. This detracted substantially from otherwise excellent flower displays in the village, particularly the new stone containers at the wall at the Community Centre. A magnificent display of geraniums was noted to a residential property in the square facing on the Community Centre. The shrubbery out the Crooke road was not thriving during second adjudication and this may need some redevelopment or attention for next year. The small garden development at the Waterford entrance at the shrine was beautiful. Two young trees which had been staked and protected by wire netting are almost overgrown by the long grass inside the netting. This will impede their development. A number of overgrown or underdeveloped sites looked a little untidy. The Village Curiosity Shop needs to be painted and the awnings of the 'Farleigh' property should be replaced. Although a number of problems have been noted here on the second adjudication, the overall appearance of Passage East is one of a very beautiful village and we look forward to many repeat visits.