

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Passage East** Ref: **1054**
County: **Waterford** Mark: **236**
Category: **B** Date(s): **15/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	25
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	236

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2009 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included a completed application form, village maps and a short term work programme. The adjudicator notes that you have an ongoing traffic control problem. It is to be hoped that your discussions with the appropriate agencies concerned will lead to a successful resolution of these matters in the years ahead.

The Built Environment:

The twin villages of Crooke and Passage have a charming location on the estuary. Passage East itself retains a strong urban form. Like many Irish villages, Passage East gets its character from the pattern and shape of its own unique location. It was noted that within the village there were a number of both residential and commercial buildings that merit conservation. It would be a well worthwhile undertaking for the committee to have these buildings architecturally assessed with a view to their proper conservation and regeneration. An opportunity now arises for this conservation appraisal in the Barracks Square where the old three storey Garda Station and the adjoining shop and residence are for sale. These buildings still retain their sash windows to their first and second floor and it is to be hoped that this lovely aspect will be retained. Adjacent to these, the small corner residence has been successfully restored and has retained all its traditional character and charm while using a contemporary expression. At the end of Blynd Quay, a new residential building is similarly successful. There are a number of local pubs and B & Bs which look exceptionally well and have successful colour schemes and advertising signage. The corner Post Office creates a busy atmosphere on Barrack Square. This building was externally very well presented on a paved area, with colourful planting surrounding a seating area which was in full use on the day of adjudication. It would be very well worthwhile for the committee to engage with the Local Authority with a view to having street name signs erected. This feature would add great interest to this lovely environment. Post Office Square with its diamond shaped planted bed as its centrepiece looked magnificent and many residents were seated out in this area on

the day of adjudication. At White Walls, the pleasant terrace of houses has a nice colour scheme and the sea views from here are enhanced by a well landscaped area opposite. The Church at Crooke, set in low grounds, is presented to a very high standard. At the well presented school, the nice hedging was admired.

Landscaping:

Evidence of the committee's gardening education through Leader and your effective mobilisation of the wider community, is clearly seen in the many hanging baskets, planted tubs, window boxes and flower beds throughout the village, which greatly enhance both the urban and natural setting. In addition to the well presented private residences, there is a myriad of nicely developed colourful open spaces and many of these contain appropriate artefacts with links to your maritime heritage. The prominent corner at the Ave Maria grotto looked very well, as did the park and shrubbery to the front of the Community Centre. At Crooke, the triangular nicely planted shrubbery on the approach road to the village proper looked stunning. A nice hedgerow here was also admired. Your community should be proud of this effort.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We look forward to the development of the walkway to the beach and hope that you are successful in your discussions with Waterford County Council. The hillside walk is a great initiative, and this adjudicator was delighted that he decided to walk down to enjoy the stunning views of the village rather than walk up the hill! The goats here are a unique feature and add considerable interest to the walk. As a rural area, Passage East and Crooke are rich in natural wildlife, green areas and habitats. Perhaps a good way of raising awareness of environmental issues amongst the greater community, would be for the committee to further liaise with the School and the Wildlife Ranger to encourage local wildlife surveys. It would be most beneficial if this information were to be visually displayed by means of further information boards to enhance local awareness.

Litter Control:

We note that you have been proactive under this heading and that litter cleanups are arranged every two weeks. Your involvement with the school children will have a good educational value into the future years. On the day of adjudication, the village was substantially litter free, with small quantities of litter being observed at the Community Centre and the roadway between the two villages.

Waste Minimisation:

The Bring Centre at the Community building was noted. To proceed further in marks under this heading, a good start would be to encourage the various sectors of the community to audit the amount of waste produced and to devise ways of reducing it, in addition to segregation for recycling. The Race Against Waste website contains a number of good ideas on this. It is to be hoped that this programme will be developed in the coming years and that more initiatives from this website will be adopted in the future.

Tidiness:

Your proposed cleanup of the quay with the help of the local fishermen is a good initiative. Overall the general ambience of the village is one of tidiness but as previously stated the footpath on the access road from Waterford is in need of some repair. Also a number of buildings in the village core are in need of renovation and regeneration. We look forward to the resurfacing to the walkway at St. Anne's Well.

Residential Areas:

There are a large number of well maintained individual residences and gardens and many of these are presented to a high standard. For such a small location, there are a large number of housing schemes. The older housing schemes are well maintained and have matured nicely. Perhaps the committee would now consider carrying out an inventory of the newer schemes with a view to forming new contacts.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Waterford approach road is hugely attractive and offers panoramic views of the waterfront on the descent to Passage East. At the beginning of the descent, the magnificent stone faced embankment wall was noted. Further along, the village announcement sign was in need of enhancement and there was an amount of broken footpath kerbs in this area. By the Grotto park, a number of road information signs had discoloured. Internally to the village, some magnificent cobbled access paths and alley ways were noted. This is a lovely feature.

General Impression:

Your location contains all the best characteristics and features of traditional Irish fishing villages and the hard work of the committee will pay huge dividends if this tradition is preserved. We wish you well in this endeavour.

