

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BORRISOKANE**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-07-96

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 26 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 13 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 20 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 20 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 21 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 9 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 14 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 21 |
| General Impression | 10 | 4 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 148 |

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Borrisokane is a town with potential to actually do much better in the competition. Despite the excellent work of the committee and indeed the co operative goodwill between the community the Local Authority and other Semi State Agencies I still feel that there is much more that can be achieved. It was noticeable that there was no mention of any proposed plan for the town and its environs in the submitted application form. I would suggest that the Committee commission a 3 year plan for Borrisokane that will have clearly identifiable objectives. This plan should be submitted with next years application. I am sure that with the contacts already established with the Co Council and other agencies that they would be only too willing to give some practical support if approached. Also ensure, if not already done, to seek the advice of other organisations.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

One can appreciate that since this is the first year of new criteria that some committees would have had little time to address this section, but as part of your plan for next year make sure that sufficient thought is given to this section. For instance the area at the bridge on the Ballinafoy River could have potential as a nature area and might link in with any proposed restoration development of the Old Mill.

LANDSCAPING

The Fairgreen looked well on adjudication day ,grassed area and well planted shrubs and flowers gave it an appealing look. The area around the Ballinafoy River on the Ballinderry Rd could be given a new lease of life by some simple imaginative planting, this could be part of a plan to make this section into a wildlife habitat. There was large number of excellent window boxes and hanging baskets to be seen in the centre of the town. Efforts are being made to make the Towerhill more attractive by judicious planting this will have its desired effect in time, allowances have to be made for the ongoing construction work in and around that particular area.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Borrisokane has a number of impressive buildings ecclesiastical, civil and commercial which depict the life and history of the town. The Churches have a strong presence in the town, the three main religions are represented RC, C of I and Methodist. All three places of worship and surrounding grounds and boundary walls are extremely well kept. The schools and Garda station are well maintained and those responsible for their upkeep are to be commended. When the work is completed in front of the National School it will be even more attractive. The Graveyard with its new stone wall and well maintained ground is also worthy of positive mention. The town possesses some very fine commercial buildings that have been extremely well kept some with attractive flower boxes and hanging baskets - the following deserve mention for their efforts `Toms Tavern`, `Dand Ms Restaurant and Take Away`, `Carmels Fashion`, `The Griffin Arms`, `An Chistin` and `The Bank Of Ireland`. All these premises have contributed to the positive aspects of the town. The community school was in excellent condition, it looks as if it had been recently painted. Unfortunately the town had its negative aspects and greater consideration will have to be given to these if progress is to be made. The community school has been praised for its presentation. This contrasts with the Courthouse which for a public building is in poor condition. The relevant Government Department can be approached to see if it can be refurbished. The David Clarke Memorial (I presume that is not in honour of the Limerick hurler !) is a beautiful old building which is totally neglected. The proposed development of the old mill will be welcomed, hopefully it can get underway soon. Generally there is too much dereliction in and around the town edges - old farm building on the Portumna Rd and unoccupied service station on the Nenagh Rd. It is possible to get to grips with these problems if a master plan is put in place.

LITTER CONTROL

Generally the town was tidy but not totally free of litter - areas in the centre of town and on the road to Cloughjordan. This problem can be taken care of easily by having a regular litter patrol in conjunction with the schools.

TIDINESS

Borrisokane is relatively tidy but issues like derelict buildings and untidy sites should be addressed prior to next year. These are all issues that should be included in a 3 year plan for the town. Weed control would need to be improved as well .

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

In general residences both in the town and in the outlying terraces and estates were very well maintained in general. There were examples of excellently kept private dwellings both in the town centre and particularly on both the Portumna and Nenagh Roads. Marian Avenue and St Brigids Terrace on the Cloughjordan Road were in very good condition, neighbourly spirit very evident here. The Towerhill Estate was reasonable, allowances have to be made for ongoing construction work.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads were in good condition with room for improvement in some. The Nenagh Rd was well presented - nothing spectacular, grass margins were cut back, the derelict service station was offset somewhat by the beautiful nursing home on the opposite side. Cloughjordan Rd had a number of overgrown sites that should at least be cut. Kilbarron Rd was a bit of good and bad, grass margins were cut, trees planted on new path area looked well, but again there were a number of unsightly entrances as well as poor weed control. Ballinderry Rd - the grass margins need to be regularly cut back, William Wallers - untidy as was the fence posting in front of the Enterprise Units, Couthouse Rd - grass margins need to be cut on this road which is quite narrow.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Borrisokane is an impressive town with some very imposing buildings and nice approach roads but I feel the efforts of a dedicated Tidy Towns Committee are not being rewarded enough. The town has the potential to do much better and I am convinced that a co-ordinated 3 year plan with input from all sections of the community would, if implemented in the right spirit, work wonders for the town and take it up the rankings of the competition in a short time .