

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BORRIS**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 20-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	36
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	25	23
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	200	192

Borris, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Borris is welcome to the 1998 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for submitting such a clearly updated and comprehensive development plan for Borris. It is most helpful and informative as regards the work that you have done this year and that you plan to do over the coming years and also about the various statutory bodies and organisations that are involved with you in the work in Borris. It was a pleasure to visit your village in the south of the county and the pleasure is very much to the credit of the organisation. You have made good progress again this year in the competition and it looks like you will continue to do so, well done!

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most buildings looked very well this year. It is good to see that there is less plastic signage around and that Cody's has a new sign. This enhances buildings as plastic signs can really detract from very fine architecture and stonework. One or two industrial premises were at a slightly poorer standard than most of the other premises in the town. One example is the Sheep Wool premises that is next door to Cavanagh's pub and also as you have mentioned in your report, Kelly's near the viaduct. Well done on the improvements this year. Keep up the good work.

LANDSCAPING

You have made considerable progress again this year and as also mentioned last year, your choice of trees and shrubs is highly commended. The Fairgreen area will look extremely well in years to come and already does so. Your contact with the NRB regarding accessibility for people with disabilities is to be highly commended. Some of the features such as the water pumps and monuments in the town were in need of a little more attention, in some cases, planting was needed together with weed clearance. The excellent planting schemes are to be highly commended and the environment of the village will benefit from it in future years. It is most striking how the stone walls are such an important feature in the village, especially when they have been restored and repaired. We look forward to seeing the continuation of this work.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Again your planning in this regard is most impressive. The plan to create wild plant and long grass areas along the roadside and amenity areas is commendable. The area around the Fairgreen and tennis courts will be a great asset in this regard in years to come. Do continue to involve all the community and especially the schools in this work as it is highly rewarding.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard this year is very good again, there was very little evidence of litter in the village at all. Obviously everybody is co-operating and is very well informed about litter control.

TIDINESS

The village is very tidy and neat on first acquaintance. Some kerbsides needed attention for weed clearance. At one or two of the commercial premises, goods were on display outside on the street. This can be visually obtrusive and obstruct the overall impression of the buildings, not to mention creating difficulties for the disabled. There are (as with many centers), one or two problem sites. As regards Kelly's premises near the viaduct, coniferous planting might be appropriate in that it would provide screening quickly over the years to come. An alternative fencing should be used instead of the chain link fencing which has been erected, (probably for security purposes) over the bridge. The area by the telephone kiosk was fairly tidily presented this year. We wish you luck in your efforts to have the kiosk itself repainted as you have been endeavoring to do so over the last year or two.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of presentation of most of the houses along the streets to the village was very high this year. Unfortunately some of the houses in the estate at the end of Pound Lane were in need of some attention to entrances and to boundary walls and also to one or two gardens. The standard in these areas was generally quite high otherwise. Some verges needed clearance and also the open space needed cutting. A second area of open space towards the back of the estate was overgrown. It needs to be cut back and defined by proper placing of boundary treatment. Do try not to put this on the long finger as it is desirable that these matters be seen to in the near future.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads look very well this year, particularly following the work that has been done to the placement and maintenance and repair work on walling along the boundaries. There are spots, however, where some weed clearance and tidying generally needs to be undertaken and in one or two places, some mounds of sand had not been cleared. Continue with these good improvement works and you will see the marks steadily increase over the coming years.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The impression of Borris is most for the travelling public. It has many fine natural features and also a handsome built environment. A considerable improvement has been made on last year on the presentation of the village and your clear, concise plan shows that you intend this progress to continue. There are one or two problem sites (of which you are aware) and they are

undoubtedly the most difficult to deal with. We wish you luck with your future plans and progress in the competition.