

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	36
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	213	206

Borris, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your progress report and development plan attached with your entry form. It is a very good plan and clearly sets out your objectives for each year. It is an excellent guide for your Committee and is something which can be built on over the coming years. It is good to see that you continue to have the support of the Local Authority who give you enormous help in tackling black spots and the environmental grant is invaluable to finance your projects. As indicated last year the village is very attractive and it has a wonderful natural environment which helps with your development approach.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The public buildings throughout the village continue to be maintained very well and they include Schools, Bank and Post Office. The Community Centre was also well presented. It was noted that you still have problems with the larger industrial type premises. It is suggested that the Committee should make an approach to the owners of these properties and ask them to come on board and support you in your efforts to improve the overall presentation of the town. Keenans and Whelans commercial properties were presented to a good standard and no doubt they will continue to improve where possible.

LANDSCAPING

A programme and plan for maintenance is very important for the landscape throughout the town. The grass needed cutting throughout the green. The shrub and rose beds had weeds in them. The shrub bed inside the road wall with the bark in it was in good condition. More attention is needed to the grass under the tables and also around the trees. The area around the pump had weeds on it and would need more careful attention. I note from your plan that a new design for the planting layout of the Green is in place. It is a wonderful amenity to have but it is a large area to maintain. The landscaping on the approach road was very good throughout and that includes the viaduct bank.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The upper green area as indicated is ideal to promote and encourage interest in the wildlife habitat of your area. The tennis courts are falling into disrepair which unfortunately does not enhance this lovely area. The hedgerows are also important and vital habitats for many of the wild plants and bird life. Awareness of the importance of hedgerows has increased and that area should be investigated. A very useful leaflet, which might be of assistance to you, is available from the Environmental Information Service, 17 St Andrews Street, Dublin 2. Perhaps you might get a small

number of the committee to work on this aspect of the competition for next year. The signboard at the junction to Station Road depicting plant, bird and animal life is a great initiative. It should provide interest and discussion on the various species available in your area.

LITTER CONTROL

The control of litter in a large area like yours is a constant battle. You have measures put in place which are working well. The community do have to back up the work of the CES staff who does wonderful work for you in managing the litter throughout. The green area had some pieces scattered throughout but otherwise it was very good.

TIDINESS

Your problems with regard to tidiness were noted but hopefully in time you will overcome them. The verges throughout were very good but attention to the weeds at the kerb sides is necessary. Weed control at the kerbs in some of the housing estates does need particular attention. Continue to encourage property owners to control weed growth outside their own areas. Recycling facilities will assist you in helping to keep the overall area tidy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

It is good to see that you have established new sub-committees to work with the residents in Wood Lawn and Station Road. Communities do need help, guidance and support on plans to make their areas better places to live in. The open spaces in Wood Lawn and Station Road were neat and tidy. Some railings need painting and attention needs to be paid to weeds at the kerbs. This area perhaps might benefit with some more tree planting or suitable shrubs. The flowerbed on the bank at the entrance to the Station Road houses looked very well and had delightful colours. Perhaps this whole bank could have the same treatment. The householders in this area continue to present their houses very well. The Oak Tree Housing Estate is landscaped to a very high standard. It has some delightful beds which have a lovely mixture of shrubs and plants. The seats throughout are in perfect condition. Choice of trees and their maintenance is also very good. The hanging baskets are again another delight. The residents of this area take great pride in their place and maintain it to the highest standards. The upper cottages are almost all presented to a very high standard. One also noted some nice new colour schemes on some of the properties in that area. Well done to all the residential areas for making every effort to present their properties in the very best possible light.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

It is good to see repairs being done to the Borris Estate wall and it does certainly improve the appearance from the

Carlow/Kilkenny direction. When this project is completed in about two years time it will have been a very worthwhile one. Your concern is noted regarding traffic and parking in the town and it is something which must be raised with the Local Authority. You also noted in your application form and in your plan about the number of signs in the area. Again the Local Authority would be more than willing to discuss this with you and adopt a plan for signs which are suitable for your town. Boundary walls of some commercial properties on the approach roads do need attention. The laneways will also need resurfacing.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The efforts of your committee to harness all sectors of the community to come on board are beginning to show results. You have outlined the difficulties and the areas which need work. There is a good strong Committee and a very good plan to work on over the next few years. You have got the involvement of the community which will help you enormously. As indicated last year your persistence will eventually pay off. You have overcome some problems and hopefully the larger industrial companies will join with you in your tasks. Again well done to the committee for a well prepared and thought out plan. It will be invaluable to you.