

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	38
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	31	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	219	213

Borris, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

The application details and Development plan submitted were very helpful at adjudication time and gave a very good insight into the activities in Borris. The cooperation of Carlow County Council and their help with initiatives has proved very helpful for Borris. The Community enterprise Scheme is also of great benefit in the developments. A committee of 16 members is a very sizable number and with that strength, fulfilling the future plans can become a reality.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is a very broad range of building forms in the town of Borris and perhaps this is what gives the town such a unique character. The Church, Main Gate Lodge, old railway station, the varied styles of architecture of the residential and business premises, the old school, terraced houses and the Viaduct all present a very interesting picture. The commercial business premises are also incorporated into the village. Stone walls of the estate and various stone walls in the town also give a very definitive mark to the town.

LANDSCAPING

The Borris estate, and the trees associated with the estate area, are a marvelous feature of Borris. There are many examples of very large oaks and limes, which are beautiful. The large oak at the entrance to Oak Court is a fine example. The trees on the fair green are wonderful. The landscape work on the main fair green has developed very well and this is forming a very pleasant picture on the green. The reduced grass areas and the inclusion of a wide range of all year effect shrubs will enhance this green even more as it matures during the next few years. The containerised plantings in various parts of the village add some summer colour to the streets. Planting at the school by the viaduct is excellent and complements the school building very well. The grass-mounding to the bridge gives a very effective presentation. The green by the housing estate at the old railway station is very well kept and the large lime tree forms a beautiful picture. Lime and oak trees need to be planted where ever possible for continuity towards the next generation of people who will live in Borris. The well cared for grassed area, with tree planting below the wildlife sign at the remains of the old bridge, was admired.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The proposal to develop a wildlife scheme in the upper fair green is excellent. This fair green is somewhat neglected and having concentrated on the main fair green for an amenity area it would be wise to use the upper green in the way you suggest. The tennis courts seem redundant. The railway linear walk may be deferred - but this was a

very good idea and should only be temporally shelved. The naturally growing plants on the wall in Pound Lane - Red Valerian and Pennywort look very attractive.

LITTER CONTROL

There is a very good litter management system in place. Nevertheless litter was noted in a number of places along the main street. Litter presents a constant battle but persistence and determination does pay off.

TIDINESS

There is a good level of tidiness in the village with a good sense of order about business premises. The industrial premises by their nature often present materials and machinery in a very exposed manner and efforts to help to screen or organise in this regard are welcome.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residences are very varied - from the street side terraced cottages to the small housing estates and single houses on the approach roads. The houses along Pound

Lane are attractive. The main street houses are very well presented. The Upper Cottages are very colourful and attractive. The Oak Court and Station estates are very well cared for. Individual houses here and there will need attention to railings and house painting in order to keep the standards in place. Consideration as to whether to encourage people paint their houses to a coordinated style or allow people to use their own choices without consultation with neighbours is debatable. The estate at Woodlawn is very well cared for with great attention to grassed areas. The childrens playground project does not appear to have progressed so far.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The roads are in good condition in the village and well marked. Pavements are also good and some new paving has been done in recent years. The lack of a footpath at a narrow part of the road from the village towards the school is worrying. The small streets off the main street are attractive and are well maintained.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Borris is a unique village with its special association with the estate and its wide range of architectural forms. The remnants of the railway presence are well utilised and the fair greens allow for a restful amenity. Crossing the street to the fair green could present problems at times with the volume of traffic descending down the hill.