

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BORRIS-IN-OSSORY**  
County : **LAOIS**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	34
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>211</b>

# **Borris-in-Ossory, County Laois**

## **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition and thank you for your detailed map and outline of work plan for this year. Congratulations on your selection for the Laois/Offaly 5 year plan project- there are great expectations for the years ahead!

## **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Within the village the old courthouse has much potential and features shrub beds along its roadside frontage. It is in a poor state, but it is anticipated that the Heritage project will improve its presentation. On opposite side to courthouse is a dilapidated house with corrugated roof and is for sale. Geoghegans shop front and adjoining house beside with its ivy walls and 3 colourful planters of flowers looks well. The RC Church is very cleanly presented and school and its grounds, which feature floral donkey and cart, and the series of bird boxes look well. Hedging along the link wire fence is doing a good screening job. Kelly Machine Spares is an interesting building and is nicely painted. The little Church of Ireland church with its round tower is a feature at the Limerick exit from the village. It is nicely presented with well maintained lawns and surrounding trees. The old School looks really well and is cleanly presented in grey and blue. Coyne's plastic newsagents sign could come down.

## **LANDSCAPING**

There is a very fine planter of shrubs which stretches from the front of Geoghegans to the small church at the end of the village. The series of twin trees planted along the main street are developing well and are a great investment in the future. Village pump painted red in the centre of the village looks well but its little pot of flowers could be improved. It is a pity that the ice cream cone sales sign dominates. The pump near the church with its plant is very attractive. The chain bordered car park at back of church with shrub screened back wall looks well. This is connected to the church and village with green border area running up along side of church. The car park at courthouse needs attention as does the side garden and railings. The water pump on the Skirk road is cleanly presented but could do with further landscaping.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

At the Limerick exit from the village is an amenity area with seats, planters and shrubs. The feature is millennium fountain. At the 30mph sign is a nice amenity development featuring some shrubs and flowers in planter. In general, more could be done in wildlife area. The area surrounding Borris-in-Ossory with its natural growth of trees and fine hedging offers a rich habitat for wildlife.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

For a busy main artery road route Borris-in-Ossory is managing a reasonably good litter programme. Although specific reference was made to difficulties in this area, on adjudication day, the experience was quite good.

## **TIDINESS**

The Rosie O'Grady frontage looks quite well, but the stack of plastic bottle containers outside the premises looks untidy. Wirescape has been kept to a minimum by running it down one side rather than across the street.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There are nice mature gardens at many houses along the Swan Road. Some work has been done on the verges at the railway bridge. There is an attractive open green area with flowers as village is approached at cul de sac. St. Patrick's housing estate is nicely presented with some open green areas. The entrance to St.Canice's looked well.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

On the approach to Borris in Ossory from the Limerick side, the village sign is set in a an open grass area which has been rough cut. From the 40mph sign the verge cutting is neater. At the 30mph there is a nice house presentation to the right, to the left the hedging is good. Open grass areas with planters of flowers introduce the village from the Mountrath side. This is a fine entry to the village. From the traffic calming point the verge on right is well presented with trees and trimmed verge. The Borris sign sits on top of limestone. To the left the footpath shows scars from the installation of new lighting, and walls in this area require screening.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

General impression was of a cleanly presented town. The virtual absence of wirescape across the street opened the skyline and supported this impression. The 5 year heritage project is an exciting prospect.