

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 28-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	29
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>199</b>

## **Borrisleigh, County Tipperary**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thanks for the completed entry form, sketch map, progress report and 3-year plan. Your comments re adjudication process were noted and certainly this adjudicator spent some time walking around the village.

The interaction between the committee of 12, the local community and other agencies (even though you don't specify which ones!) seems to paying off as the village has improved since this adjudicator last visited some years ago. I also notice that the overall mark has increased by 12 since then. Your plan is progressive and practical and you have addressed issues under the main headings of the competition.

It is important to have all the community on your side and no doubt you have fostered good links with other parish associations. This is a section that Borrisleigh has scored well over the last few years and this year is no different.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The first item on the Built Environment section of your 3-year plan is your plan to get rid of those unsightly overhead cables - they certainly do not complement the streetscape, which is quite pleasant. I may not be too popular for my next comment either, but the Christmas lights while they might add colour to the village during the festive season, seem to be haphazardly installed and are very untidy.

On the positive side I note that you intend to cap and plaster the walls of St Brigids Cemetery - which if I am not mistaken was consecrated by Bishop Harty - this will prove worthwhile as this is a fine entrance. You might consider doing something with the wrought iron gate as it was in pretty bad condition as well.

The installation of a Tourist Information Board giving details of that part of Tipperary is a worthwhile idea. The overall standard in the built environment section is rather mixed to be honest there is still too much dereliction to be seen in the village and its surrounds. It is a pity to see the two fine Georgian Houses at the top of the village (Nenagh side) and the townhouse near the Church in such a bad state of disrepair. There are other examples but I don't want to harp on about them, suffice to say that the Committee are aware of the problem and hopefully will be able to encourage relevant landlords to take corrective action. There are some very positive things to be reported on under this section and the following deserve mention for the manner in which they are presented: public buildings such as the Church and Grounds, Garda Station, both St Teresa's and St Patrick's National Schools as well as St Joseph's Secondary School.

All these premises and surrounding grounds were maintained to a very high standard and credit is due to the caretakers responsible. The following commercial premises caught this adjudicator's eye, Tynan Design, Chadwickes Electrical, O Dwyers Family Butchers and Finns Public house which is an excellent example of a traditional shop front that one would associate with a rural village such as Borrisoleigh. Incidentally it was noticeable that in this, the heart of Tipp hurling, there were very few flags flying a day or two before the Munster Final against Waterford, a little complacency perhaps! The Clodiagh Bar was been painted on the evening of the adjudication and should look well when completed.

Tipperary Spring Water plant in the village was very well presented unfortunately the same could not be said for its sister plant MJ Gleeson on the Templemore Road. The GAA Club one of the focal pints of the village was basic but well maintained. The centre of the village seems less cluttered than in years past and parking has become a little more organised. It is not easy for a committee to rectify situations such as dereliction; it needs the goodwill of the actual owners but keep encouraging people to change their attitude to this problematic issue.

## **LANDSCAPING**

The number of trees planted, 350 in all, over the last four years seems quite staggering for a village the size of Borrisoleigh, quite a few are now maturing rapidly especially in the outskirts of the village. This is a section that the Village scores very well in and the ongoing work and future plans will only enhance Borrisoleigh even more.

The planting at both picnic areas on the Thurles and Nenagh exits was quite balanced with a mix of shrubs and annuals. The Bridge feature is quite unique the adjudicator was wondering was it part of an old road at one time. Window and tubs colourfully planted are prevalent in the centre of the village and indeed a few made their debut appearance on the evening of adjudication. There were a number of very colourful individual gardens to be seen on the periphery of the village and these contributed to the overall standard.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The committee's intention to maintain wildlife habitats such as the Cramogue River and to develop new initiatives such as the proposed Bird Sanctuary is commendable. It would be prudent to seek the advice of a local nature enthusiast when engaging in such activities.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There has been a big improvement in this category since I visited the Village some years back. More bins seem to have been put in place and the local community are making a great

effort to ensure that the village is will become litter free.

## **TIDINESS**

I am aware that Borrisoleigh in is a farming community village and that farm activity is the lifeblood of the place but unfortunately there was as a little to much residue like hay to be seen in the centre at kerbsides. This coupled with weed growth at the base of some walls, telegraph poles and outside St Brigids Cemetery needs to attended to as soon as possible. There also were a number of untidy back areas noticed in and around the village. There are a number of gates and iron remnants scattered at the base of a fence as one enters from Templemore, again the Committee need to encourage owners to keep property tidy.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The standard in this section was quite good with the old complementing the new or vice versa. Mt George estate, which has expanded greatly over the last number of years, is maturing nicely with a very attractive planting arrangement as backdrop. The old terraced houses, Lios Phadraigh which was not identified in the map, as one leaves for Nenagh were very well presented as were those on the Templemore Road.

The houses on the Upperchurch Road have improved since my last visit. Credit is due to all those residents of these areas who are doing their utmost to keep standards up.

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

I note your concerns about the removal of directional signs by the County Council and it baffles me why this has taken place. I would suggest that you keep lobbying the authority until it agrees to adhere to your requests and concerns.

That aside the entrances especially those on the main Thurles/Nenagh artery were well presented, the planting arrangement alluded t earlier give a good impression as one enters the village.

Unfortunately the same cannot be said for the Templemore entrance as the road surface was poor and the Borrisoleigh sign was not visible, also there was an unacceptable level of untidiness visible at this entrance.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The Tidy Towns Committee is working hard on behalf of the village and this is reflected in the improvement that ahs taken pace over the last number of years. There are many positives and also good number of negatives but at least the Committee are aware of these and in concert with the larger community are taking steps address these negative issues. The 3 year plan gives you objectives to work towards over the next few years.