

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Borris**

Ref: **335**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **221**

Category: **B**

Date: **16/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	40
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	29	27
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>219</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

It is gratifying to read that you continue to have the support of Carlow County Council, the Community Employment Scheme, your schools and your community for your efforts which you outlined in detail in your plan. Thank you indeed for all this information and for the map sent with the entry form and which was most useful on adjudication day. Could the adjudicator ask however that, for the future, you would mark on the map where specific projects are taking place so that they are easier to locate and to have sight of them. Because of its strung out nature Borris is obviously a difficult town to look after in Tidy Towns terms but excellent work is being done by your Committee and this was reflected again this year. You received an in-depth report from the adjudicator last year. The following therefore is by way of comment on further progress to date and should be read in tandem with that report.

### The Built Environment:

Again this year your Church, Schools and stonewalls looked exceptionally well and are being well maintained. The main gate lodge of the Borris Estate and the viaduct are substantial buildings and add greatly to the atmosphere of the town. Commercial premises also looked well and reflect greatly the interest which your business community has in its environment. Well done to all concerned.

## **Landscaping:**

Your comments in this respect have been noted and the landscaping work on the Main Fair Green is progressing well. However on adjudication day the grass needed cutting and, as such, would have greatly enhanced the overall appearance of this particular area. Landscaping in the vicinity of the Church and School is very nice indeed but perhaps was in need of some maintenance. Hanging baskets, tubs of flowers and window boxes, where presented, also looked well particularly in the area of the main street where many commercial premises have entered into the spirit of the competition in this respect. Trees and shrubs planted in the past are now maturing nicely and add a lovely ambience to the town. Bearing in mind the comments of last years adjudicator – all-in-all excellent work is being done on the landscaping aspect of the competition and indeed work in progress was noted on adjudication day.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Your comments regarding difficulties in this respect have been noted. Perhaps it might be possible however, in the short term, to initiate a project with your schools which might provide nesting boxes, feeding tables and wildlife signs in a suitable area which would be an added attraction to the town. Perhaps there is someone in your locality who is knowledgeable on this. You should also consult with Duchas. In the meantime the same mark as last year will be given under this heading.

## **Litter Control:**

Litter control this year was excellent and indeed, on adjudication day, work on this particular aspect of the competition was noted. Well done to all concerned.

## **Tidiness:**

Your comments under this heading were also noted but, in general, Borris looked neat and tidy and again reflects greatly the interest of your business community and the towns' residents in their environment. Comments made in last years report regarding industrial premises are still applicable.

## **Residential Areas:**

Borris has some lovely houses of all types, cottages, housing estates, individual residences etc and it is this mixture that gives it a unique and colourful attractiveness. Housing estates are being well maintained. In this respect Woodland Park Estate and Oak Tree Court are fine examples. This type of support from estates and individual houses is absolutely vital in the competition if you are to achieve further success.

## **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Road surfaces are very good and pathways are being well maintained. Approach roads are being nicely presented particularly those from Carlow and from Enniscorthy. Adjudication normally takes place from either between the village name plate signs or the speed limit signs whichever you opt for. It is desirable therefore that the areas from there on in should be strimmed regularly in order to create a nice appearance bearing in mind the notes in the Tidy Towns Handbook regarding the preservation of wild flowers.

## **General Impression:**

Overall Borris is a very unique village presenting many types of different architecture which is a great attraction. Your plan is excellent. Try to do a certain amount each year within your physical

and financial resources but, at the same time, being realistic as to what you can achieve as sometimes if you try to achieve too much and do not it can become frustrating. Liaise closely with the agencies which are available to you: - Carlow County Council, Duchas, Heritage Society, South East Tourism (based in Kilkenny) and of course your local community. This type of co-operation will gain additional marks for you in the competition in the years to come. In the meantime keep up the good work.