

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Borris-In-Ossory**

Ref: **439**

County: **Laois**

Mark: **211**

Category: **B**

Date: **02/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	28	29
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	13	14
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	34
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	211	212

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your application and copy of the most welcome Borris in Ossory 5 year Tidy Towns Plan. This is an excellent document which clearly defines the programme of work required to achieve a much improved presentation of Borris-in-Ossory. As the section 3 work programme indicates there is much to be done but the each stage builds and adds to the overall as each year's work is completed – keep the enthusiasm going!

The Built Environment:

The Old School looks well and these trees, along both sides of the main street are maturing nicely with colourful flowers at their base. There are a number of eye catching buildings, the Church of Ireland being the most notable. Unfortunately there are also a number of dilapidated buildings in this area. Although there are some shrubs growing around the Courthouse, the building is in need of restoration and it would be nice to see a firm date as to when its owners Laois County Council can put restoration work in hand. On the opposite side to the Courthouse is a dilapidated house with corrugated roof.

The Leix County Hotel could do with improvements to the screening of its back area and car park, while the array of signs on its gable end could be tidied up.

Landscaping:

The Old School looks well, the trees along both sides of the main street maturing nicely with colourful flowers at their base. The fountain and amenity green beside the Courthouse looks very well, along with its interpretative sign.

There are a number of eye catching buildings, the Church of Ireland being the most notable. 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 Church of Ireland, its car park and surrounds are well maintained. The two water pump features are nicely presented if a little 'lost' between the lamp post and traffic light pillars.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

At the Limerick exit from the village is an amenity area with seats, planters and shrubs. A feature is the millennium fountain. At the 30mph sign is a nice amenity development, featuring some shrubs and flowers in a planter. In general more could be done in the 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:

Borris in Ossory is managing a reasonably good litter programme. Litter control is good and the running of wires along rather than across the street virtually removes wirescape problems.

Tidiness:

The storing of pallets outside a house close to the Church of Ireland is untidy. There is also quite an amount of dilapidation at this point.

The Rosie O'Grady frontage looks quite well, but the stack of plastic bottle containers outside the premises should be removed.

Residential Areas:

The Castle Lane estate of houses opposite the Health Centre looks exceptionally well with nice grass verges on both sides with colourful flower beds and planters. Features include a water pump surrounded by a fine floral display, and the screening of open sites with timber fencing. The Health Centre has a stark presentation and could benefit from repainting and the introduction of plants, trees and flowers. The approach from the Skirk Road has some attractive housing with well developed gardens. Hedges are maintained and a feature is the pump set in front of a stone and timber fence. The verge to the left is undergoing maintenance and is ready for seeding.

A new wall at the railway bridge looks fine and new housing development is taking place at this point. The small housing estate has a very fine planter on the corner.

St. Patricks housing estate is nicely presented with some open green areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach to Borris is generally good with well presented roadsides with trimmed green areas, raised planters, and village signs set nicely in stone. From the Mountrath approach the footpath towards the town entrance is still scarred from the installation of lamp posts. There is a nice flower box below the traffic warning signs. The village sign on the Limerick access is almost over grown. Closer to town the verges and hedge presentation is very good with nicely displayed village signs, although the village name is missing from the stone mounting. The garage is under construction. The approach from the Rathdowney side is fine with a mix of mature and new housing.

General Impression:

Overall the town looks well but efforts could be made to exploit its wildlife heritage. Nice to see the number of private house owners who are contributing to the tidy towns effort, through the maintenance of very pleasant gardens. Also, the committee is commended for working to its new a plan.