

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Borris**

Ref: **101**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **229**

Category: **B**

Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>225</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to wish Borris Tidy Towns Committee the best of luck in this particular committee's first year of entry. You appear to have a sufficient number of people in order to spread the workload! Many thanks for your map which was very clearly marked, indicating areas on which you had concentrated over the year, and was therefore most useful on adjudication day. If you have not already done, so please formulate a three to five year work programme outlining your plans for the town's future development. This document need only be two or three pages long, outlining your objectives and setting a time frame for their implementation.

### The Built Environment:

Borris is indeed fortunate in its marvellous wealth of unusual buildings in a variety of Architectural styles. Of particular interest, were those which were a mix of render facades with stone dressings around opes, and also the traditional shopfronts, many of them with their original signage. Do ensure that buildings retain (or indeed re-instate if necessary) traditional up and down sash timber windows. This really does make such a difference to the proportions and fenestration of the facades of buildings. The post office with its name in Irish was admired. Commercial premises of note were Kavanagh's, The Corner House, D.J. Nolan's - a pretty traditional front but could do with painting before next year's competition and F. Kiernan's with its traditional Irish script. The church, with its elegant stone tower and silver painted railings was greatly admired. The Bank of Ireland looked well, as did the school. Other structures such as the stone monument and magnificent viaduct were

also greatly admired.

### **Landscaping:**

This is an area of the competition that you obviously greatly enjoy, to judge by the village's appearance on the day. Attractive flowers at the road junction on the Bagenalstown side of the village were admired, as were the trees planted in pots set upon the magnificent new paving in the form of stone cobbles or setts outside D'altons. The charming Fair Green park area running along main street behind the stone wall is a marvellous asset to have in the centre of the town. Unfortunately the upper area was padlocked on the day and therefore unfortunately inaccessible. Attractive planting was also noted at the junction of Station Road.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The adjudicator was interested to note your plans for a wildlife corridor east of the viaduct and further information on that should be provided (in order to fully explain your proposals) with your application for next year's competition. Perhaps you could also consider incorporating a walk along the viaduct - bearing in mind the relevant Health and Safety issues regarding provision of handrails at appropriate heights etc. Wildlife boards were noted and admired. It was also noted that new trees had been planted at the gateway to Borris House opposite Step House.

### **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day was reasonably good although a couple of papers on the main street created a bad impression and there was more in evidence along the New Ross Road, at the open space at Lodge Court and along the Clonagoose Road.

### **Tidiness:**

The town generally had a neat and ordered appearance on adjudication day. However, a skip against which items had been dumped on the Bagenalstown side of the town looked unfortunate. The adjudicator noted your comments regarding the broken stone walling, which does look a little unfortunate at the moment. Hopefully this is an issue which will be rectified in the not too distant future. Weed control was generally good, although problem areas were spotted at the village pump in the vicinity of Lodge Court and to kerbsides on the Carlow Road. The recycling bins appear to be suitably located but were a little grubby on the day.

### **Residential Areas:**

The attractive timber sculpture at Oak Tree Court was admired, situated, as it is, on the open space. The charming single storey cottages on the Bagenalstown side of the town looked extremely well with attractive gardens, of note being a charming one with hanging baskets. Lodge Court is a new development using traditional stone walling at its entrance which is to be commended. B&B's contribute well to this category of the competition, in particular Step House with its creeper clad facade. Another similarly adorned house near the church was also admired. The charming cut stone cottages on Station Road were also greatly admired and are a fine architectural asset to the town.

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

The Bagenalstown road was presented to a reasonable standard although some weeding was necessary to kerbsides. Along the New Ross Road roadsides were well maintained. This is a magnificent entrance to the town with its marvellous overhanging mature trees. Some charming daisies growing to the top of a stone wall on the Clonagoose Road were admired. The Rathanna Road is an attractive approach to the town under the viaduct but its nameplate was quite obscured by overgrowth, unfortunately. In terms of street furniture, the bench on the Bagenalstown side of the village should be re-whitewashed and repaired before next year's competition.

### **General Impression:**

Borris was a pleasure to re-visit on a sunny Summer's adjudication day! It had been a number of years since this adjudicator's last visit and it was pleasing to note that the unique and special character of the town is being maintained. Good luck with all your future work.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

Borris has a beautiful hillside setting. The many fine buildings, stone walls and mature trees create a most distinctive atmosphere. Further clearing of overgrowth was required on some roads. The planted containers looked well although perhaps those with trees might be better dispensed with and the trees planted permanently. Deciduous trees are generally preferred to coniferous. It is most appropriate that you do take care of your great legacy of stone walling. Although there was much fresh paint to be seen some buildings were in need of attention. The Church was admired. Some old sheds and yards tended to detract from good presentation in the vicinity. The green and landscaped areas were most enjoyable. We look forward to retuning next year.