

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Borris** Ref: **35**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **236**
Category: **C** Date(s): **16/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	236

Overall Development Approach:

Borris is nestled comfortably amongst trees with the church spire and the railway viaduct being handsome features. On approaching the town from the height of the Enniscorthy approach road, the gentle rise and fall of the streets of the town allows scenic views of the surrounding countryside which are most pleasant. The town appears to be an old estate town with the high stone walls and magnificent entrance of Borris House still being an important feature of the town. Borris is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included your planned work program, we wish you well in its implementation. For such a new committee your work has been impressive.

The Built Environment:

Well done on the work accomplished for the MacMorrough Kavanagh Monument together with the painting of Borris town hall and other achievements to the built environment. There are a number of potentially attractive shop fronts as these still retain their traditional features, however many buildings are in need of cleaning and or painting; if painting is a chosen option then heritage colours should be featured. The protruding sign on Nolans butchers is too large and should be removed and replaced if necessary by one of a much more appropriate scale; the canopy on this building should be replaced by the open ended straight edge type of canopy. Both Joyces Pub and the M. O'Shea premises were admired for their traditional features as well as the Brennan McDermot premises and their excellent maintenance. Hopefully the beer signs will be removed from the pubs in the not too distant future as these are quite dated.

Landscaping:

Well done on replanting existing containers and their maintenance, together with permanent flower beds. The newly landscaped hard surfaced area at Daltons Pub looks superb; the tatty outsized ice-cream cone should be removed from the footpath. Your small roadside park is a very attractive feature of the main street in Borris,

its stone enclosure and stands of mature trees behind are handsome features.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your wildlife interpretative panel is beautifully illustrated and most informative and will increase the understanding of the people who read it of the wildlife of the area, however the panel itself is in need of refurbishment. You should take specialist advice on developing the walk along the railway viaduct in order to ensure that wildlife habitats will not be disturbed. Conservation Volunteers of Ireland are an excellent group and of course there is the Wildlife Heritage Officer within the county council.

Litter Control:

It is good to note from your submission that school children and the local club and associations participate in a good standard of litter control. On the evening of adjudication a group was out cleaning at the entrance of Borris House; well done to all involved. The town was litter free on the day of adjudication however the litter bin outside the post office was filled to capacity and would not have taken much for its upper contents to be emptied out on to the footpath so this suggests more frequent emptying is required.

Waste Minimisation:

We note the existence of your recycling bins; however to compete successfully under this heading you will need to undertake initiatives that will minimise waste as well as collecting it for recycling. For instance, the schools, businesses, farming community, and residents should be circulated with information on how to minimise waste. The Race Against Waste booklet included in this year's Tidy Towns pack contains a number of good ideas on this.

Tidiness:

Your work to maintain the town in a tidy manner has been noted particularly your contact with county council regarding indiscriminate dumping and of course the cleaning of signage and recycling bins. You might also approach the owners of sites and yards regarding the maintenance of their curtilage areas as quite a few underdeveloped, untidy sites, yards, and outbuildings were noted, particularly on entering the town from the Myshall road. Bags of dumped material were noted beside a skip at the entrance to the town from the Carlow/Kilkenny road.

Residential Areas:

The upper cottages were admired for their flower displays, which were colourful and profuse on adjudication day. Well done on your clearing of the area known as the pound. We note with interest the new development sites within the village and hope that new residents will enrich the life of the community and will take responsibility for the maintenance and presentation of their own areas. The best way to ensure this is to welcome new people and invite them to meetings as well as circularising them.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads are lined with attractive stone walls, much of which is covered by excess growth; where possible excess growth should be cut back to highlight the beauty of these walls. Grass verges to entrances into Borris from approach roads are being neatly maintained and most have been recently trimmed. Handsome stone kerbs to the footpath along the main street and along Station road were noted. A number of road signs are in need of cleaning. Road surfaces and footpaths are recently well surfaced.

General Impression:

Borris is an attractive town with an attractive estate town with much of its estate house and walls and grounds still intact, it is a town that features many period buildings which still retain their traditional elements; improvements to the built environment in the form of cleaning or painting would be most effective in its presentation to the competition.