

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Borris-in-Ossory** Ref: **408**  
County: **Laois** Mark: **236**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **06/08/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>236</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Many thanks for your submission, which was most informative, giving the adjudicator a clear and picture of your work to date! The map provided was especially useful on the day as it clearly highlighted areas of interest. Your work plan seems practicable and sensible-focussing in on areas that are in need of attention. The sketches give a clear view of what's intended. You would appear to have a good relationship with Laois County Council and the local business community.

### **The Built Environment:**

The commercial properties in the town centre were generally freshly presented on the day. Of note were Goggins, Noel Meades Butchers, Londis, Knights, Kelly's and Sheeran's. White's looked somewhat neglected in comparison, which is unfortunate as it is a very attractive traditional shopfront and façade. The modern Catholic Church looked well, and the proposals you have for this area in terms of landscaping will make a real difference to the appearance of this area of the town. The Church of Ireland is quite charming and well maintained. It terminates the vista down the wide Main Street as one approaches from Dublin. The Garda Station was quite fresh. The Courthouse and County Council Offices will need to paint the rendered portion of their building before next year's competition, although the planting to the front creates a good impression. The Leix County Hotel should also be painted.

### **Landscaping:**

There are many attractive permanent planting in stone surround beds on well-maintained grassy verges on the Limerick road. Indeed, grass verges and planting on approach roads generally create a favourable first impression on the visitor to Borris in Ossory. The modern millennium fountain was tinkling away on adjudication day, and created an attractive effect. A rose bed in this vicinity was admired. The planting of new trees is always welcomed as these will be an investment for future generations. The village pump on the Errill

road was freshly painted and simply presented with marigolds. A stone wall with flowers on top was also admired on this road. The trees marching along the wide Main Street created a favourable impression, but it was felt that they appeared somewhat sporadic and that the planting of additional interspersed trees would make more of an impact. The village pump had been freshly painted in front of the Catholic Church.

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

The provision of bird boxes in the school grounds is commendable. Have you considered getting the schoolchildren involved in drawing up a wildlife survey for you? You were given good advice in last year's report in respect of this category of the competition and we would recommend that you re-read this and take its suggestions on board.

#### **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day was very good! Well done to all concerned. A single item of litter was evident on Errill road and on the Dublin road. The involvement of the local schoolchildren in this work is excellent as it is important to have an awareness of litter issues at an early age-it is one that will stand to them throughout their lives. Participation in the Spring Clean Week by residents of all ages is also laudable. We note that you planned to take part in the Inter Community Litter Challenge this year and look forward to hearing the results.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

The participation of the local schools in the Green Flag Programme is laudable. Congratulations to them on their achievements. This area of the competition is one that will become more and more important. It relates to the organisation of waste in terms of segregation and the encouragement of the local community - both businesses and residents - to recycle and compost where possible. Do consult your Tidy Towns Handbook and Race Against Waste brochure for ideas for furthering this aspect of the competition.

#### **Tidiness:**

The town had a neat and ordered appearance on the day. Your work regarding weed control was noted and applauded. There were some building materials located at the gateway to the Church of Ireland on the day, which we took as being intended for building work. These should always be removed when construction work is complete. The chains to the parking area by the Church of Ireland were a little rusty on the day.

#### **Residential Areas:**

There are some attractive gardens on the Errill road. The well landscaped new estate - Royal Court was admired. St Canice's Terrace sported some attractive floral displays, as did the terrace of houses in the cul de sac that faced the Church of Ireland. An attractive garden was glimpsed through its gateway on the Dublin road. Laurel Villa sported some attractive floral displays.

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

The approaches to the town were well maintained for the most part. The Errill road sported well-maintained hedgerows and grass verges. Rose beds and stone beds filled with petunias and marigolds on well maintained grass verges made an impact on the Dublin road. Hedging along this road had been planted behind a wall and will make a big impact in years to come. Discourage advertising hoardings as they can give a rather cluttered appearance to approach roads.

#### **General Impression:**

Borris in Ossory is an attractive town which has undergone expansion in recent years. It was a pleasure to stop and visit properly for the first time, rather than simply passing through on the busy Dublin - Limerick road. Good luck to all concerned with your future proposals and plans.