

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BORRIS**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17
Landscaping	40	24
The Built Environment	40	23
Litter Control	40	23
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	300	177

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Although you have not submitted a 3/5 year plan of action for Borris, you would appear to have a clear idea of what you would like to achieve for your town in the future. However, a strategy for developing the town's strong points and, indeed tackling problem areas is important for next year's competition. This should be based on the constructive remarks made in this report and formulating a 3/5 year plan of action for the town. The enthusiasm is obviously there, and your established relationships with Carlow County Council, Telecom Eireann and FAS will, hopefully, be of great benefit to the community as a whole.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Perhaps the best approach to this issue of wildlife/natural amenities would be to contact local environmental groups and experts who could advise you and provide you with the information you need to tackle this broad-ranging issue. From there you can then identify the wildlife habitats of your area and see what varieties of animals, birds, fish and plantlife these attract. Involve the local schoolchildren in this project-they will hopefully bring a fresh enthusiasm for the wealth of wildlife in their locality.

LANDSCAPING

The standard in this category was very high, indeed. This is obviously an area in which you excel. The primary aspect of landscaping in the town was that of the raised Upper and Lower Fair Greens which displayed an attractive combination of mature trees and flowers set against the backdrop of the stone boundary wall to Borris House. They are delightful green open spaces surrounded by a granite crenelated stone wall. Much activity was witnessed on the day, as people worked to maintain the Upper Fair Green. The two village pumps were simply presented. The lower one, surrounded by granite verticals, was a little weedy. Although the upper one was itself missing, the attractive stone surround was admired.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both the public and commercial properties within Borris were well maintained on Adjudication Day. The attractive "Oifig an Phoist" was admired for its great character. The forecourt area to the imposing Gothic entrance of Borris House looked a little forlorn and weedy. The splendid adjacent red fuschia and lilac bush looked very well. The Church and adjacent Parochial House were well presented; the grounds were beautifully maintained with a wealth of attractive flowers. The Gothic Kavanagh's Monument was simply presented. The old school house is charming with granite surrounds to the plastered facade, although the rusty gate to the yard beside, made a bad impression. The school grounds were well kept with new willow trees. The Green Drake Inn/O'Connor's restaurant was reasonably fresh in yellow with delightfully lush window boxes. J.Dalton's is an attractive traditional front, although the lamps each side of the door look quite inappropriate. There are still a number of obtrusive plastic signs in the town such as those to Kavanagh's, Cosgave's and the White House bar. The Bank of Ireland looked very fresh with colourful window boxes and hanging baskets.

LITTER CONTROL

The town of Borris was remarkably litter-free on Adjudication Day.

TIDINESS

On first impressions the town was very neat and tidy. However, closer inspection revealed a few minor problem areas. Some unfortunate backyard areas near Kavanagh's Corner on the Clonagoose road could be screened more successfully from public view. The concrete open area with one or two planted tubs beside Dalton's could be planted and landscaped more successfully. The area indicated as "former

dump" on your map, had a pile of rubble and was surrounded by a broken-down rotten timber fence and, therefore looked rather messy. A boundary wall at Pound Lane adjacent to the White House Bar should be freshened up.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the houses throughout the village were well presented on the day. The high level of retention of original windows is to be commended. Upper Cottages were noted for their unique charm. Some would appear to need freshening-up. The ivy-clad one was particularly admired. The abundant colourful window boxes to the house with the yellow door looked splendid, as did an attractive garden opposite the end of Pound Lane. Some of the houses on Lower Main Street will need freshening before next year's competition. The housing estate to the top of the town was neatly presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category was rather inconsistent. There was work in progress on the Leighlinbridge road. A stone wall was being built at the petrol station. Road signage was generally good, but that by the Vocational School should be freshened. The New Ross road is a most attractive approach to the town as it is quite high and gives a magnificent view back to the town nestling between the marvelous viaduct and the fields behind. The factory with its low wall in front of a bushy hedge looked very well. The Golf Club entrance area had some weeds to the base of the boundary wall. The Graigenamanagh road was rather overgrown although the copper beeches are coming along nicely. The Myshall road is very industrial - some premises were neatly presented, others could have been better. The retention of the traditional telephone box is to be commended, although the perspex has stained rather badly.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Borris is a most attractive and very busy town with a lot of potential to do extremely well in the competition. It has marvelous views to Mount Leinster and indeed back along Main Street. It has a wealth of fine neo-Gothic buildings and complementary crenellated stone walling. There are also many very fine and unique plaster buildings with granite surrounds to the doors and windows in the town. There was much activity noted on Adjudication Day in terms of cleaning up and freshening, which created a good impression.