

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **REDCROSS**
County : **WICKLOW**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 27-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15
Landscaping	40	21
The Built Environment	40	21
Litter Control	40	24
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	158

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the new format of the 1996 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your questionnaire. There is a very good village atmosphere in Redcross and it is something that you should try to promote and develop. The adjudicators look forward to a simple work programme for the next five year's for next years competition; try not to adopt unrealistic objectives. Ideally your plan should set out objectives in a limited number of areas, which are achievable each year. Try to get the whole community involved in your work, including school children.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The two rivers running through the village provide a focal point on which wildlife features could be promoted. Try to avoid the use of weed killers. It was nice to see some wildflowers in evidence and the tree planting programme that was going on and the presence of song birds during adjudication gave a positive image. There is however, potential for greater nature conservation in the village. A good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats in your catchment area and see what species of animals, birds, fish etc. these attract. Why not invite local environmental experts and groups to get involved to advise you and provide you with the specialist information you require. School children also have a very practical role to play in this.

LANDSCAPING

A number of efforts were noted throughout the village this year. The area by the pump was well maintained, some nice stone walls were in evidence. Good effort was also noted at the bend with shrubs and bedding plants. A nice area was noted on the southern approach road, with seating and cut flowers in evidence. The entrance to the Community Centre could be better presented; try to work on this over the coming year.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Generally, the premises were well maintained. Try to do something with the area with corrugated sheeting opposite Colliers. Outside Colliers itself was litter free. River Valley was very well presented with nice use of flowers and the area by the river was well presented. With regard to the pub, try to improve the shopfront through painting and perhaps the provision of an Irish name. The derelict building beside M. Cullens might be tackled also. At Redcross Community Centre, grass had been cut at time of adjudication but it could have been neater. This area might benefit from the use of flowers. The Church was looking well at time of adjudication. It was good to note that a clean-up was taking place of the school at time of adjudication, well done.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control in general was very good in Redcross this year, with no particular problems noted.

TIDINESS

Again, a good presentation here. However, the signs at the corner need to be painted and the dumping of earth in the car park by the Community Centre takes from the overall appearance. Try to remove cut grass also. Open spaces on the approach roads and by the Community Centre that only had a rough cut do take from the overall appearance.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are good examples of individual effort under this section throughout the village this year. Well done. Good effort with flower tubs was noted at Tweedle Craft and also with several premises opposite

the Community Centre. Try to encourage some of the residents to consider adopting a spot in a particular area in the village that could be enhanced.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the approach road from The Meetings grass cutting was taking place at time of adjudication on the left hand side. Verges had a rough cutting, trees were coming on well with a nice stone wall on the right hand side. Approaching the village from Lil Doyles, the verges had not been cut at the sign, which takes from the overall appearance. At the bridge, this area could be improved and perhaps a feature of the river could be made here. Nice flowers were noted outside one premises and at the farm and it was also nice to see a new stone wall being built. Well done. Approaching from the south, a well landscaped area was noted with planting etc. The left hand side had been cut but the right wasn't. The adjudicators noted the wild flowers growing.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The general impression is that while the village of Redcross was relatively tidy and litter free this year. More of an effort could be made to enhance the attractiveness of this potentially attractive village, through the use of planting, tubs, flower baskets on premises, more landscaping of the grassed area outside the Community Centre - all these should be included in your work programme for the coming year.