

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	22	20
The Built Environment	40	22	21
Landscaping	40	23	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	25	24
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	166	158

Redcross, County Wicklow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your detailed entry form and map which was helpful during the course of adjudication. There seems to be a good overall approach to Tidy Towns development throughout the village. The adjudicators look forward to the submission of your detailed five year plan. This plan should be simple and realistic, covering 3 - 5 pages, together with a map outlining areas for improvement or particular problem areas. Try to get greater input from your local authority, business community, residents and schools. While the adjudicators recognise that the village is small and that support might be limited to a small number of people, it also means that a little work can achieve a lot, in comparison to larger towns and villages. In this regard, try to come up with some innovative plans, and try to improve the buildings in the long terms also. Bilingualism was a feature of this years competition.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Try to paint the perimeter wall of the school. The school grounds were very good, litter free and tidy. The Church grounds were excellent with flowers. Colliers Stores was freshly painted. Bunting was noted near River Valley Caravan Park, it is suggested that more appropriate containers could be put in place at this entrance - try to paint the seat outside here also. Improvements are noted within the Caravan Park. At the old National School, the grass had been cut, new litter bin was noted but the open space outside was very untidy and needs to be tackled. A new wall was noted on the Lil Doyles road. Try to improve the vacant site next to the pump area. Good use of signage was noted by Flemmings.

LANDSCAPING

Generally most open spaces were well presented this year. Flower beds opposite the Craft Shop were well presented. Well landscaped grounds, beyond the sign, on the approach from Arklow were also noted. Try to avoid the use of weed killers at the Redcross sign on the left hand side. It was nice to see wildflowers around the old school. The shrubbery around the rockery was also quite good and tree planting was noted by the stream. It is good to see continued improvements being made but try to work on some major project, perhaps around the pump on the Main Street, which, itself, was well presented this year.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Conserving nature is a new venture for many towns and can appear daunting at first. The adjudicators recognise that environmental programmes can take time to get up and running and even longer to assess their success. This section of the report requires an involvement of all groups, including schools in the village. The emphasis is on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats and the environment.

Woodlands, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, open spaces, graveyards and walls are important habitats. The committee needs to identify the habitats in their area and then determine the appropriate actions to conserve and enhance these habitats. Guidelines in the Tidy Towns book offers other suggestions as to the type of initiatives you might undertake. Is there a local wildlife expert, or a member of the community with experience in this area, that your committee can draw on? In preparing an environmental programme for the village, there should be a year-round participation in environmental protection and promotion involving all members of the community and providing access for all. The next step is to identify what habitats are in your area - are these woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, or other habitats such as cemeteries, walls etc. Prepare a survey and map, showing the areas of wildlife importance and areas of potential importance. Other steps involved in the preparation of the environmental programme for Redcross would include identification of species list of the flora and fauna in the area; preparation of a wildlife management plan as part of the area development plan; work to be carried out including conservation projects, wildlife gardens, areas of conservation, access, tree planting, information areas etc. This must be carried out in sympathy with the local landscape and must not be overwhelming visually, or environmentally. In this regard, the stream running through the village is worthy of attention. You might also include the school children in wildlife projects. The school grounds might be one area whereby a wildflower garden could be developed.

LITTER CONTROL

The adjudicators noted the comments in the entry form in relation to the blitz undertaken by Macra and the local National School, well done. The assistance from locals is also evident. It is good to see a new sponsored bin on the Avoca road junction. The recycling facility by the caravan park mentioned in your plan was noted. The school grounds were litter free. Generally, throughout Redcross, litter control was good.. Overall, a good presentation under this category.

TIDINESS

While the old school grounds were very good, the area outside was very untidy and needs to be tackled for next year. It was good to see the bridge cleared of ivy on Lil Doyles road, well done. Overall, there is a very tidy appearance, however, the presentation of buildings detracts from the overall appearance.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

It is good to see that most residents throughout the village make a good effort in maintaining their residential areas. Excellent efforts were noted, for example, with the house to the left of the school, i.e. a white house. On the road from Avoca good individual efforts were also noted with the residents. A new house was also being built by the Craft Shop. The B&B looked well on day of adjudication. Try to paint the house at the 30 MPH sign on the approach from Arklow.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The completion of stone walls and flower beds opposite the Craft Shop is to be commended. Approaching from Arklow, grass verges had been cleared away, it is nice to see an old seat reappeared. Try to avoid the use of weed killers at the sign, for example, on the left hand side. Verges had not been cut back on the right hand side, while the left hand side, closer in, was a bit unsightly. At the 30 MPH sign, only a rough cut was given. Try to clear the old wall. It is good to see flower baskets evident. Grass had been cut around the old school building. Try to clean up the area around the bridge. New 30 MPH signs and Junction signs were noted on the Avoca road. Grass verges had been cut back on both sides. Flower bed was noted by the Mottee Stone sign, which was good to see, try to paint the nearby gate. Try also to paint the Avoca, Arklow, Wicklow signs.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Improvements are being made. It is good to see the new wall on the approach from Lil Doyles, as a new project. Try to work on more, including the buildings. Good luck for 1998.