

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **REDHILLS**
County : **CAVAN**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-2000

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2000 | Mark Awarded 1999 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 22 | -- |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 22 | -- |
| Landscaping | 40 | 21 | -- |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 10 | -- |
| Litter Control | 40 | 22 | -- |
| Tidiness | 20 | 13 | -- |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 16 | -- |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 20 | -- |
| General Impression | 10 | 4 | -- |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 150 | -- |

Redhills, Cavan.

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

This adjudicator is pleased to welcome back Redhills into the National Tidy towns competition after an absence of 11 years. Redhills with its very rural environment, has potential to do well in the competition, however, the need for a rolling 3 - 5 year plan (No more than 5 pages plus map) is now very necessary in order to create a clear focus as to what is required for progress. In this regard the advice and guidance as outlined in the Tidy Towns book should be of great help to Redhills Tidy towns Committee. The enthusiasm of your committee is obvious and the task of encouraging the community at large to get involved should now be your priority.

Thank you for the completed entry form and map which was most helpful to the adjudicator.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The stone boundary wall is an attractive feature of the village and is presented well. "Seat" car sales, McCaffreys and Garda Station were all noted for good all round presentation. A number of derelict buildings detract from the overall presentation of Redhills, however, the adjudicator noticed a FÁS team working on a building adjacent to the Fairgreen and this is most welcome. The new footpaths also contribute to enhancement. Do promote a co-ordinated approach to the painting of premises (both commercial and residential) - this would brighten up the environmental presentation of the village and achieve progress under this heading.

Please refer to adjudication criteria in the Tidy towns 2000 book for further guidance on matters relating to the built environment (page 13).

LANDSCAPING

The village Green looked splendid on adjudication day and against the backdrop of boundary stone walls of Whyte - Venables Estate creates a welcoming approach to the village. Further planting and greater use of shrubs and perennial flowers would maximise the beauty and presentation of the Green. Flower tubs, hanging baskets and window boxes would also add more colour and enhanced the overall presentation of streetscape. Neatly trimmed verges and the appropriate planting of trees, shrubs and flowers for year round effect will help you achieve a higher rating under this heading.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES.

As a tidy towns committee you have an important role to play in protecting and increasing the appreciation of wildlife in your community. The rural location of Redhills should provide you with many opportunities for suitable projects under this heading. In identifying projects seek the advice of ENFO - a public information service established by the Minister for the Environment and Local Government or contact your area wildlife ranger.

Work with the local school and choose a project which can be educational and of particular interest to school children i.e. identifying wildlife habitats of your catchment area - documenting and signposting same.

LITTER CONTROL

Redhills was litter free on adjudication day - obviously the local community are committed to promoting Redhills as a litter free zone! Continue to monitor the condition of litter bins and organise regular clean- up campaigns to tackle blackspots. Engage the support of the school in organising an anti-litter awareness campaign and participate in Department of the Environment and County Council clean up programmes.

TIDINESS

Derelict sites and poorly presented back areas are your main problems under this heading. The area of the GAA Park also needs attention. In general the first impression of Redhills is one of tidiness.

You have scored well under the heading - Congratulations.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential properties in the main looked well and many with well maintained and nicely cared for gardens particularly on the main approaches to the village.

It is important that boundary areas are free from weed growth and neatly presented.

Building sites should be cleared of rubble etc. when work is finished and suitable landscaping features put in place. In many towns and villages residents associations work with the Tidy Town Committee and their activities are an integral part of the agreed work programme.

ROADS, STREET AND BACK AREAS

Neatly trimmed verges and tidy green spaces are a feature of approaches to Redhills, however, some side roads and open spaces still need attention. The new footpaths make an impression and the work of Cavan County Council in this regard is highly commended. Some new signposting was also noted and this is necessary for a village that can attract

a significant number of day visitors because of the high profile created by the filming in the area of the "Playboys" movie which received national publicity.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

As already mentioned a 3/5 year work programme is now desirable to provide you with a clear focus as to what can be achieved during that period. Establish a strong working relationship with Cavan County Council, FÁS and other state agencies who have an influential role in matters relating to the environment. Give a priority rating to the Built Environment and Wildlife sections when formulating your work programme for next year.

Again welcome back to the competition and good luck.