

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Redhills**

Ref: **225**

County: **Cavan**

Mark: **221**

Category: **A**

Date: **28/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	34
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	33	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	36	36
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	19	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	24
General Impression	10	9	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>212</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

What a great pleasure for your adjudicator to visit Redhills for the first time on a very warm June evening. The adjudicator would like to thank you for the very helpful maps and Tidy Towns Action Plan, and a very comprehensive entry form.

Your Action Plan is simple, clear and realistic and that is what is required. The Plan will help to guide your Tidy Towns actions year by year. In October this year you should update your plan and move it on by a year.

### The Built Environment:

Really beautiful fine stone walls and landscaped areas are the main characteristics of the beautiful village of Redhills. The new footpath development and the new stone wall leading up to the bridge fits well with the existing stone in the village. The town-land name stone in limestone are a most unusual but very interesting feature that your adjudicator has seen in just a few other places in Ireland. The newer style village signs with their attractive landscaped areas looked very well on adjudication day. Do make sure that the older village signs and the signs at the village green are washed on a regular basis.

A few derelict buildings were noted that detract just a little from the overall appearance of the built environment of your village. However there is a way in which perhaps you can make a feature of

these buildings pending their removal or restoration. Try and get the owners to agree that they will blank out the window and door openings with heavy waterproof Marine plywood. This should then be painted matt black, and window bars and door panels painted in white. This approach as a temporary measure can look quite effective. In retrospect of the derelict building on the village green have you considered erecting a history plaque here? This building looks as if the ground floor may have been a shop at some time in the past.

The seats provided throughout the village are unusual in the number that are available, and it is good to see this sort of project being undertaken properly.

## **Landscaping:**

What can one say about the landscaping in Redhills? What you have achieved is really excellent. The village green with the combination of excellently presented grass, trees, flower beds, yellow village pump, and seats is really outstanding. It is most interesting to see how the commercial premises on one side have been incorporated into the overall development of the this area to very good effect. The landscaping on all approach roads has been carried out to a very high standard. The colour of the shrubs and plants combines excellently with the colour of the abundant stone walls throughout the village. You appear to have provided many additional tubs and bedding plants.

Practically every property has contributed to the overall landscaping effect and they are to be congratulated on their efforts. The half tubs at the base of the stone wall on the Cavan approach provides a dash of colour that is most effective.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The sign at the Nature reserve is really interesting and the illustrations are excellent. The entry form and supporting documentation does not make it really clear how much work you have already done on the wildlife aspect of Redhills. In many towns and villages this is an aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition where there can be significant potential for development. All towns and villages have the presence of wildlife to some degree. It is important that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine further the wildlife potential, and see what you can achieve in terms of making your area even more wildlife friendly.

If you have not already done so, the starting point is to have a habitat survey carried out of the wildlife in your area. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- Wetland habitats – rivers, ponds, lakes, canals, reed marsh, bogs
- Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The Survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to your area

This need not be an expensive survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person in the area who might undertake this task for you. Basically the survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit your area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the Survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different time of the year.

Using the results of the Wildlife survey your next step should be do draft a straight forward Plan to preserve the identified habitats in your area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. For example perhaps there is an old Pond in your area that is disused, but with a little work could be an important area for wildfowl.

It is most important to try and involve your local school children in this project, and in many Schools there is probably a teacher who may have an interest in this area who would be willing to get

involved.

As part of the actions to be undertaken in your Wildlife Plan you might like to consider the provision of some weather proof and vandal proof display panels, illustrating and explaining the wildlife in your area. This has been done very successfully in many towns and villages in Ireland.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control both in the village centre and on the various approach roads was excellent on adjudication day. A little litter was noted at the wildlife area. The red litter bins were noted.

### **Tidiness:**

The clean up evenings are obviously working well. The corner to the right of the wildlife plaque has been taped off and this work needs to be completed as quickly as possible, On the Cavan approach road an untidy area was noted on the left hand side with one apparently abandoned car, tractor tyre and other materials. On the Scothouse approach an untidy area was noted on the right hand side.

### **Residential Areas:**

Practically all property owners seem to have got involved in landscaping and the presentation of their premises in an excellent way. This community effort is warmly commended.

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

All approach roads were presented to a very high standard on adjudication day, and the quality of landscaping on these roads was very high. The gate lodge on the Cavan approach road in it's attractively landscaped area is an attractive feature on this approach road.

### **General Impression:**

Congratulations on the results of so much community hard work supported by Cavan County Council and other agencies. This major effort is reflected in increased marks again in 2005.