

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Redhills**

Ref: **57**

County: **Cavan**

Mark: **316**

Category: **A**

Date(s): **21/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	44	45
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39	42
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	44	46
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	31	32
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	16	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	67	68
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	36
TOTAL MARK	450	304	316

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Redhills Tidy Towns Organisation is welcome to the 2017 competition. We were sorry to hear that you feel the level of commitment of volunteers is going down each year and hope that this will improve and that you can get more people onboard to assist you with your work. Have you looked at strengthening your relationship with Cavan County Council? They could be of great assistance with your work. The Environmental Officer and Heritage Officer could offer advice on various categories of the competition including sustainability, wildlife and heritage. It was good to hear that you work with the Rural Social Scheme and the Job Initiative Scheme. We were sorry to hear that many of the shops, the Post Office, the Creamery and the Garda barracks have all closed – this must be very disheartening. Hopefully suitable uses will be found for these properties in the not too distant future and they will be re-opened. The annual biodiversity poster competition and antilitter competition are both good ideas. Many thanks for your comprehensive submission and a very clear map and associated legend all of which were most useful on the day. We were sorry to hear of your committee member's illness and hope that he will be recovered in order to return to organising your Three Year Plan for next year's competition.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

The buildings of the village and along its approach roads generally looked well on the day. Their appearance was one of neatness and order. The new Village Green signs and the new picnic tables will make a big difference to this area. We wish you luck in your plans for the children's playground in this location and hope that you get the support that you need to complete the project. Attractive and smartly presented benches were noted throughout the village. The mural with milk churns at the Village Green is again a chirpy display but will need freshening up before next year's competition. McCaffrey's pub was quite smart, as was O'Neills. Redhills Car Sales also looked well!, as did the Playboy Inn.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Landscaped areas throughout the village looked extremely well and this is an aspect of the competition that you obviously enjoy. We noted your comments in relation to flower beds and containers. It is certainly a very positive approach to the lack of employment, adds colour to the area and expresses a very positive impression to the visitor and the local community. The display of bicycles by the wall on the Belturbet road was a clever and humorous touch! The Village Green looked magnificent with its grassy expanse, sculpture of girl playing and the village pump. The numerous hanging baskets throughout looked well and made for a colourful display. The many village pumps were smartly presented and there is an abundance of stonewalling due to the proximity to the demesne. You appear to have struck a nice balance – ensure it doesn't go too over-blown as at the moment it looks quite balanced and appropriate. The old ploughs and bog wood at various points look extremely well. The half barrel flower tubs along

approach roads were also admired. A white washed wall around a large tree in the village centre is quite traditional and vernacular - it created a good impression.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádurtha:

The new bird nesting boxes at the nature reserve site are commendable. We noted your approach to creating an area of a wildflower meadow on the Village Green. Your nature trail with its seven information board in and around the village and along approach roads were noted, looked smart and create a very positive impression. Many thanks for your wildlife and natural amenities document which was very clear and appropriate. Bug hotels were noted and admired as were the bright red bird boxes. Do insure that the nature reserve sign is washed down – it appeared a little grubby on the day.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

We were pleased to hear that you had completed the final part of your biodiversity project in January on the Belturbet approach road. Congratulations on your participation in the National Spring Clean in April. Photographs of same were noted in your application form. The annual poster competition is a good idea for encouraging the school children to be concerned about their environment.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The idea of clean up evenings each Monday from April to October is a great idea. Consistent cutting of grass on a weekly basis during the growing season is commendable. We were pleased to hear that you keep footpaths weed free by hand picking. It is important to avoid pesticides as they can be very detrimental to the environment. Neither have you neglected signage. We noted your Litter League result signage proudly displayed on approach roads. The recycling area is discreet and well maintained with attractive hanging baskets displayed around it. A single paper was noted on the Cootehill road. Do consider outbuildings when looking at overall presentation - there was a damaged roof to one building which was visible from the main road .

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

Both street houses and those along approach roads generally looked well cared for on the day. It was good to hear that you encourage householders to paint and repair any walls, outbuildings fences et cetera, and that all grass areas to the front of houses are kept mown and litter free. The housing estate was well presented with attractive landscaping to the front. The garden with the gnomes made another cheerful display! An attractive white washed two story cottage was noted for sale – do try to ensure that it keeps its original character, including timber sash windows- these are getting rare and are most appropriate from a conservation point of view. Another agricultural building was noted for sale and hopefully this will be restored to its former glory as, again, it is quite unique and charming.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

The rota approach you have formulated to organise regular mowing and maintenance of approach road appears to be working well. All flower beds in containers have been re-planted on approach roads and looked well. Well cut verges were noted on the Belturbet road. The planted stone beds of the flowers are very welcoming. There was an attractive landscaped area at the junction of the Cootehill and Cavan Roads. The townland nameplates were noted and admired.

Concluding Remarks:

Redhills is a most attractive village situated on the Cavan/Monaghan border. It is rich in natural, architectural and historical heritage. We hope that your support levels increase - you are doing great work! The village centre and approach roads were very well cared for on the day.