**Tidy Towns Competition 2012**

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilcummin** Ref: **1020**

County: **Kerry** Mark: **234**

Category: **B** Date(s): **07/07/2012**

 **Maximum Mark Mark**

 **Mark Awarded 2011 Awarded 2012**

Overall Development Approach 50 29 29

The Built Environment 50 29 29

Landscaping 50 30 31

Wildlife and Natural Amenities 50 23 24

Litter Control 50 32 33

Tidiness 30 16 16

Waste Minimisation 20 7 7

Residential Areas 40 29 30

Roads, Streets and Back Areas 50 27 28

General Impression 10 7 7

**TOTAL MARK 400 229 234**

**Overall Development Approach:**

Kilcummin is welcome to the 2012 Tidy Towns competition and thank you for your application along with helpful sketch map. You have a committee of 9 members involving representatives from Kilcummin Rural Development, FAS, GAA and Comhaltas. You have support from Kerry County Council, North East Kerry Partnership and Kilcummin Rural Development. Well done on your efforts to communicate your message through parish newsletter, local newspaper and public meetings. Well done to the schools for assisting you with fundraising and other activities. You might consider preparing a 3-year plan for submission next time. You don’t have a large area but it is recommended that you set out your planned actions under each of the category headings. Actions should be assigned to a group/individual, each with a rough timeframe on them. In this way you can use the plan as a ‘checklist’ to monitor your progress. Visit the Tidy Towns website at [www.environ.ie](http://www.environ.ie) for helpful information on preparing a plan and other Tidy Towns activities.

**The Built Environment:**

You did not mention any work carried out since last year. Your plans regarding the new car park are noted. The Rural Development Office and the old style shop/ Post Office were neatly presented with attractive signage. The GAA pitch/clubhouse is very well maintained – the light grey walls may need to be painted soon. The school is beautifully presented with excellent landscaping. It really brightens up the village. Across the way, the modern church blends in well and has a fine stone boundary wall. The simply designed community centre looked well – just pay attention to weeds on the surface area inside the boundary wall. The old Church looks rather unsightly – are there any plans for this property? The entrance to the burial ground is well maintained. Your new car park plans were read with interest. We wish you luck with this project.

**Landscaping:**

The attractive raised bed beside the shed was noted. Millennium Park is a pleasant area with some lovely tree planting that blends in well with the natural surroundings. It could do with a bit more colour but your plans are noted in this regard. Please keep wildlife in mind when choosing your plants. The central area of the village is lovely – the large flower planters, gates, stone wall, street furniture and car park were all presented to a high standard. There is a lovely natural hedgerow on the opposite side of the wall.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Your rural village is a wonderful natural amenity in itself. What about doing some planting to encourage wildlife (butterflies, birds etc.) in Millennium Park? Please consider this in your landscaping plans. You mention two new signs beside the Deenagh River. Can you please put such items on your map so the adjudicator can find them? Well done to the school for achieving its ‘biodiversity’ green flag. They are a great resource to you for this category if you can work together. As part of their programme, have they carried out any wildlife surveys? Alternatively maybe you have a local wildlife enthusiast who could assist you? The main aim of this category is to protect/enhance the wildlife we have and raise awareness of it among the wider community. Keeping wildlife in mind when choosing plants/trees for your new space beside the playground. Using weed killer sparingly etc. would be encouraged under this category. Your local heritage officer may have further information to guide you. Lots of information in your Tidy Towns handbook.

**Litter Control:**

There was no litter in Kilcummin on the day we visited and the litter bin was well maintained. Well done to all involved in National Spring Clean. It is great to hear that you have the assistance of the CE Scheme for litter control. Do resident’s help out throughout the year or just for the big clean up? It is important to encourage all individuals to take pride/responsibility in their own areas. Well done to the school children for helping out. Remember that an important part of this category is litter awareness so be sure to include information on how you communicate your litter awareness message to the wider community.

**Tidiness:**

It is great that you have signage to your lovely Kilcummin Walk – however the entranceway to the walk is a little untidy and not very inviting. Would it be possible to have some simple information (distance/route/accessibility etc.) here about this and other walks that visitors might enjoy. Are there any plans to improve the surfacing outside the GAA Park? The bring centre was well maintained.

**Waste Minimisation:**

The scrap metal collection sounds like it was a very successful initiative. Well done to all groups who segregate clean-up litter for recycling, also to the green schools who do so much work to reduce, reuse and recycle. Thank you for the documentation outlining all their work. Is there any way you can further promote some of the actions done by the schools to reduce waste or let us know how the wider community is taking up these waste reduction measures? The main aim is to reduce the amount of waste created in the first place. Are there any local reuse schemes (school books, clothes etc.) that you could mention? Food waste is another big problem area. Visit [www.stopfoodwaste.ie](http://www.stopfoodwaste.ie) for ideas.

**Residential Areas:**

 Radharc na Sléibhte has a lovely name stone and was neatly presented. All houses along the approach roads looked very well and boundaries/verges were well maintained. Pairc Chuimín has lovely open areas and well-planned landscaping. All residential areas were litter free. Well done to all involved.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The new footpath on the ‘Mountain View’ estate road is a welcome addition. Please name all approach roads on your map. You might think about further defining your village boundaries through use of signage, trimming of verges and maybe some simple landscaping. The 50KPH near Páirc Chuimín needs attention as it is turned the wrong way.