**Tidy Towns Competition 2011**

Adjudication Report

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

County: **Kerry** Mark: **229**

Category: **A** Date(s): **17/06/2011**

  **Maximum Mark Mark**

 **Mark Awarded 2010 Awarded 2011**

Overall Development Approach 50 28 29

The Built Environment 50 28 29

Landscaping 50 29 30

Wildlife and Natural Amenities 50 23 23

Litter Control 50 31 32

Waste Minimisation 20 6 7

Tidiness 30 16 16

Residential Areas 40 29 29

Roads, Streets and Back Areas 50 27 27

General Impression 10 7 7

**TOTAL MARK 400 224 229**

**Overall Development Approach:**

Kilcummin is very welcome to the 2011 National Tidy Towns competition. Your entry form indicates that you are meeting between 6 to 8 times per year and you have a 9 person committee. We read with interest the enclosures which included a spatial plan proposal strategy, the National School’s Green Flag Programme and sample pages from their recycling project. Thank you also for the clear and helpful map you kindly supplied. Your linkage to the school board, clubs, parish council and other agencies underscore how well you are rooted within the wider community. The large school was looking very well presented and the new pavement towards Mountain View Estate is a major improvement. Has any thought been given to the next appropriate use for the now closed church? It’s a fine facility and hopefully an alternative use will be found shortly. The green conifers planted at the junction will be an increasing enhancement in the years to come. The work done at the Rural Development Office and the fine stone wall here has improved that junction considerably.

**The Built Environment:**

The school was delightfully well presented with shrubs and plants cascading over the front wall. The new Church looked well in its grounds which included the statue and flowerbed. The recreational hall opposite was also well presented; the Post Office was neat and orderly while the Village Inn looked well. The Health and Care facility (Melbourne) projected a fine image. The fine new wall at the Rural Development Offices caught the eye. Do ensure that when the work is finished the sand and gravel currently stockpiled inside the wall is removed.

**Landscaping:**

The new GAA Grounds, opened just last year, are an enormous addition to the amenities of the village. They were well presented and were very busy on the day of adjudication. The school grounds, shrubs, plants and grassed areas were neat and orderly. The iron work around the gates was in good condition. The small Millennium Park was charming; the Mass Rock Memorial just recently reaching its centenary projected a quiet dignity. The Grotto in the Church grounds was colourful and the grounds themselves were a delight. The recently opened Holy Cross Cemetery has not yet established an appropriate grass cutting arrangement and looked very overgrown.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The current centre of activity in respect of Wildlife Centred in the Millennium Park and the Wood Walk at the other side of the Post Office. The village abounds in options and possibilities for the designation of nature habitats. The bird boxes erected within the Millennium Park will only thrive when greater efforts are made to create the essential food chain on which bird life necessarily depends. Select suitable berry-bearing native Irish shrubs and plants and consider the installation of a log tower, or ‘Bug Hotel’ in order to advance matters in this regard. With the guidance of a local member of BirdWatch Ireland, arrange a survey of local species by the senior pupils in the school. This will serve to excite their interests and with that interest comes raised appreciation of the birdlife of the area, which is a life-enriching interest.

**Litter Control:**

The regular litter picking activity by the committee and FÁS workers is having a desirable effect as litter on the day was very limited. Very minor amounts of freshly discarded litter were noted on the slip road by the school gates. Well done on the annual ‘Spring Clean’ occasion throughout the entire parish, with all three national schools participating.

**Waste Minimisation:**

The three-pronged approach to waste minimisation is summed up in the expression – ‘Reduce, Reuse and Recycle’. Reducing is essentially a personal decision which has a very beneficial effect at householder level. Substantial savings are available with a slight adjustment to our purchasing attitudes and to our use of expensive and increasingly scarce power and fuels. Explore with the local county council the staging of an information evening to consider and discuss these various issues. The Bottle Bank located in the Village Inn car park facilitates recycling. You are wished well with your efforts to secure a Plastic Bin also.

**Tidiness:**

The roads and especially the paths were substantially free of weeds. We admired the well set out car parking which was neat and orderly. The ‘School Ahead’ sign just needs to be washed to enhance readability.

**Residential Areas:**

At the Pairc Chuimín estate, the communal grassed areas were well presented and there was an excellent floral display at the entrance. Mountain View estate is a successful new development with all houses appearing to be occupied. The central grassed area was suitably cut with tree planting already in position. A number of fine individual houses above the estate were admired.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

In a small village the approach roads are in effect your opportunity to project the village image to passer-by. The 80KPH signs above the Cemetery were not obscured and were clean. There didn’t appear to be any village nameplate on this approach road. The speed limit signs above the new estate were free from encroaching vegetation and were clean. The ‘Yield’ sign at the school road, main junction was sparkling. The road leading to the Mass Rock Memorial was well presented and featured delightful firs on both sides. Here, the 80KPH speed limit sign needs to be washed and it was slightly obscured by vegetation. The sign at the care facility needs to be washed, while the “reception” notice was simply lying on the ground on the day of adjudication.

**General Impression:**

Kilcummin is a small, rural village which contained and presents all the elements which one would expect in that setting. The splendid new GAA Grounds and the planned car park will be material additions to the village’s facilities over time. The green conifers and the improvements to the corner wall at the Rural Development Office all contribute to an overall pleasing aspect. To all involved in this year’s submission many thanks for your efforts.