**Tidy Towns Competition 2018**

Adjudication Report

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

County: **Kerry** Mark: **279**

Category: **B** Date(s): **13/07/2018**

Community – Your Planning and Involvement 60 36 38

Streetscape & Public Places 50 36 37

Green Spaces and Landscaping 50 37 37

Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality 50 28 29

Sustainability – Doing more with less 50 13 15

Tidiness and Litter Control 90 58 59

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**TOTAL MARK 450 271 279**

**Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal – Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:**

Céad Fáilte roimh Kilcummin Cill Chuimín chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu don Bhliain 2018, agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Many thanks for your entry in this year’s Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for participating in Ireland’s biggest community project on this, its 60th year of making Ireland a better place.

Thank you for your entry this year which was neatly laid out and completed. Despite your relative youth in terms of involvement in this competition, you are well-linked up and organised. You have made significant strides to involve young people in your work and community. The way that you communicate is admirable. Your outcome on the structure in the Environmental Park was well explained and your decision pragmatic and no doubt correct.

**Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:**

You have lots to report in this category this year. These include maintenance of the old church and recreational hall and a new parish centre. All of these are important to the core of your community. The church looked great and there is very nice shrub maintenance here. Opposite, the Recreational Hall is in very good condition. Could the little bit of service here at the front be finished? The Post Office looked well. The Pub is well-painted and looked very neat. The adjudicator was very impressed with the design and layout of the new extension to the national school. There is almost zero visual impact from this project. The clever design and existing treeline hiding it almost completely. The traditional school benefit design remains untouched at the front. The community centre looked extremely neat and was decorated with two window-boxes that were well-filled.

**Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:**

Maintenance is paramount to you in this category for the year past. The Environmental Park is an amazing amenity for your community and understandably takes up much of your time. Outdoor classes are an excellent initiative from which many will benefit. It is recommended that you do not use ESB/telegraph poles to support trees.

The approach to Kilcummin is marked by the new car parking and which is tastefully completed in good quality materials. Its boundary is marked by a well-constructed stone wall. Inside the wall Oak and Cherry trees have been planted and this is a great idea – however, it should be noted that the trees are planted under the ESB cables and this will be a problem in a relatively short time. It is suggested that these trees are relocated in consultation with the ESB who can provide best advice on a suitable distance from the cables. In tandem with this it is suggested to reduce the number of trees by the omission of the Cherries – this will avoid overcrowding of the trees in the future. As commented on last year of the Millennium Park, designed and constructed from a biodiversity point of view is a wonderful addition to the village and also fits into the Healthy Ireland programme particularly from the perspective of children – and also adults. There is some fine planting on the Church grounds and particularly on the Care Facility road side. The local school also has a really good mix of trees and shrubs that brings nature into the school day and the planting is mature enough to screen the newly constructed modern building situated to the rear and which has not been considered for planting and probably due to the constrained size of the available space. The adjudicator noticed the Woodland Walk signage but was not sure if it was meant to be used – there was a strongly worded Trespass signage at the entrance. The walk itself could be a wonderful asset for the village and one that most villages do not have. The strong smell from the adjacent ditch might merit investigation as it interferes with the enjoyment of the walk itself. Approaching the village from the other direction the old corner house with the Monkey Puzzle is a positive addition to the landscape of the village.

**Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhitheagsúlacht I do cheantar:**

Your Environment Park at Pairc an Pobal was visited on the day (a first visit for this adjudicator) and it was very much enjoyed. This site is an excellent project with great information, tree-planting, coppicing, bug habitat and a wetland. There are really clever bench planters here that caught the eye. The interpretive signs here are very well done but may be in need of a little cleaning. The start of the Wood Walk was visited. A question is posed here with regard to water quality of a watercourse alongside this walk.

**Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht – Mórán ar an mbeagán:**

Thank you for your entry in this category. While you do list some very worthwhile initiatives here (the book rental scheme and rainwater harvesting, for example), it is not thought you have fully risen to the challenges of this somewhat technical category. The Tidy Towns Unit sent out a guidance document on this category a few years ago. It is available from [www.tidytowns.ie](http://www.tidytowns.ie) if you didn’t yet see it. This has literally dozens of project ideas which won’t leave you short of things to do to manage waste and save resources. Contact the Kerry County Council Environmental Awareness Officer who will give you good guidance on this subject. The rainwater harvester at the community centre was noted and another at the national school.

**Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

You have involved all of the three schools in anti-litter activities and that’s great. You have also taken part in events such as the Spring Clean. Regular anti-litter patrols are carried out. There was some dog litter seen as well as the odd coffee cup.

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

The green area at Mountain View estate is cut regularly, as is the play area at Pairc Chuimhín. An old Church is now for sale. The grounds here have turned into something of a wildflower meadow over the years. Several attractive gardens were seen including one exceptionally kept garden with a beautifully vegetated wall.

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

A new smiley face will greet speed limit abiding motorists on the Rathanane Road as well as the Killarney Road and that’s great progress. Pavements and road surfaces were like new for much of the visit. Hang on for the new wastewater treatment system for more improvements. Lovely gates are well-treated at the GAA grounds.

**Concluding Remarks:**

Kilcummin is a very neat little place that is obviously well cared-for. Your park is quite excellent and the adjudicator took some inspiration from this that may be employed elsewhere! Best of luck with all the projects that you have planned and thank you so much for all your ongoing work.