

Tidy Towns Competition 2024

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilcummin - Cill Chuimín** Ref: **1020**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **329**
Category: **B** Date(s): **22/07/2024**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2023	Mark Awarded 2024
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	42	44
Streetscape & Public Places	80	41	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	42	45
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	35	36
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	17	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	65	68
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	36	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35	37
TOTAL MARK	550	313	329

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2024. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór...

Welcome to the 2024 Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition, adding to your involvement in the competition over 13 years. Your entry consists of a 14 page Word document with a separate 6 page photo document and a 1 page legend. However, the map was missing - this made it quite challenging for adjudication as the lack of a map only became apparent on adjudication day.

You have a good-sized committee of 12 with an additional 10 volunteers. It would be interesting to estimate the total hours put into the annual Tidy Towns effort by the sum total of all your members voluntary hours and those of the wider community and other supporters.

You have an impressively long list of 16 supporting organisations - as a suggestion a table indicating the nature of the support given would be interesting.

You use the Kilcummin Looking Good (KLG) Facebook as a communications channel, it is very up-to-date and informative. The KLG website while still in its infancy is an excellent source of information. The Community Newsboard is located in the Post Office.

There is also excellent engagement with three local National School and their pupils.

You also have a useful link with Killarney TY students.

The informational village sign and KLG website were chosen as your designated specific project.

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

Kilcummin is an attractive small village with glimpses of the Killarney mountains and lakes from a number of hilltop locations.

Between the PO and the new church, the new looking car park with lovely natural stone walls, backed by hedging, shrubs and small trees together with Victorian style street lighting gives a most attractive vista. The entrance to the Care Facility with its low stone walls leads on to the modern new church also bounded by low natural stone walls. KLG are to be highly complimented on facilitating the uplift of this area.

Across the road the NS and the Kilcummin Recreational Hall looked splendid.

The Kilcummin Rural Development building and the Old Church drew one towards the extensive GAA grounds.

Further outside the village centre, the Village Inn - set back from the roadway - was neatly painted but the front bare unsurfaced car park detracted somewhat.

Overhead wires have been under-grounded for the most part. The footpaths are good, and information signage is helpful and harmonious.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The Kilcummin Biodiversity Community Park is an outstanding amenity with hedgerows, wildflower meadow sections, a community orchard, a magnificent sensory garden, a small oak wood, examples of Willow, Alder and Hazel coppicing, a mini wetlands section, picnic seating - outdoor classroom and a composting area. The explanatory signage is exemplary - The 5 Senses explained, Coppicing, how to create a Wildflower Meadow, the Do's and Don'ts of Composting on two wellington boot graphics and Wetlands functions explained. The raised beds for community vegetables were in full production while looking neat and productive. The fact that the Community Park is right in the middle of the village means that a superb amenity is so easily accessible and available to all.

Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:

The pathway wandering through and around the Millenium/Kilcummin Biodiversity Community Park is in itself an education in Nature and Biodiversity.

It is good to hear that new native Irish trees were planted in the park. The three pallet composter with good explanatory signage looked in full operation with its own slow timescale - getting ready to supply rich compost to village gardeners.

The beehive beside the Finnegan's Cross approach road was noted.

Look at better signposting for the start of the Bog Walk.

Perhaps you might commission a professional Biodiversity Action Plan in due course when funds become available - this will help you prioritise future

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

You report on using your own compost from recycled paper, promoting community plant and vegetable growing, water harvesting, provision of bike stands and promoting more Local Link routes. The two stainless steel bike stands with the Cill Chuimin = Kilcummin built in signage are mini works of art while providing a useful service. Perhaps you might consider an additional energy initiative such as registering as an SEC (Sustainable Energy Community) <https://www.seai.ie/community-energy/sustainable-energy-communities/>, this involvement will promote learning more about energy reduction measures and use of renewables and easy networking opportunities with other

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The village was litter free on adjudication day.

The County Clean Up was completed in the Spring. Residents of the two large housing estates do regular litter picks.

The waste bin facilities are good, and no dog fouling was observed - a relatively new Belloo bin with 'mutt mitts' was seen in a prominent place near the Millenium/Kilcummin Biodiversity Community Park.

No graffiti was observed. The Bottle Bank was neat and tidy. The weight data for the Bottle Bank is very insightful and allows future trends to be teased out.

The nature areas and trails were neat and tidy and litter free.

The roadway signage presentation was excellent.

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

Pairc Chuimin is an extensive housing estate with spacious green areas. It has a very nice entrance with the name set out in stone with a natural stone wall backing. The houses are mainly semi-detached, and the entire estate has a mature feel and is extremely well kept.

Mountain View is the other estate and both estates are said to participate in No Mow May.

A suggestion: encourage householders to start a small wildflower meadow in their garden by marking out and not mowing one small area - then let nature take its course and wildflowers will appear if sufficient patience allows.

Further sympathetic hedge and shrub/tree planting by householders

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

The entrances to Kilcummin along green corridors of natural hedges and fencing have a beautiful mountain backdrop in the Killarney direction. The approach roads have well-tended natural hedges with good road surfacing and signage.

Concluding Remarks:

Kilcummin is a uniquely attractive village set in a quiet location very adjacent to Killarney Town. It is an attractive village with its renewed central area. It shows the results of many years of Tidy Towns active involvement

A visit there is a memorable event with many attractions that attract you to come back again.

I look forward to seeing the village and environs develop and visiting it again in the near future.