**Tidy Towns Competition 2023**

Adjudication Report

Centre: Kilcummin – Cill Chuimin Ref: 1020

County: Kerry Mark: 313

Category: B Date(s): 25/07/2023

Maximum Mark Mark

Mark Awarded 2022 Awarded 2023

Community – Your Planning and Involvement 80 41 42

Streetscape & Public Places 80 40 41

Green Spaces and Landscaping 80 40 42

Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality 55 33 35

Sustainability – Doing more with less 55 17 17

Tidiness and Litter Control 90 64 65

Residential Streets & Housing Areas 55 35 36

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes 55 33 35

TOTAL MARK 550 303 313

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2023. Táimid buíoch daoibh as uacht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhur gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór….Thank you for Kilcummin’s participation in the competition for the past 12 years, it has been a pleasure to visit Kilcummin Village with its many attractions; thank you also for your well-structured application form which helped the adjudication process. The engagement between the Tidy Towns group and the three schools is laudable, also noteworthy is the groups networking with a range of support groups which is fruitful. It is good to note that the community has benefitted significantly from participation in the competition. The ‘Sense of Time’ project is impressive in concept and installation; consideration might be given to achieving Universal Accessible status for the entire village at some time in the future. On adjudication day there were roadworks in the village which limited circulation to a certain extent.

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

Most premises within the village looked well on adjudication day, the school complex was admired together with the CLG complex the latter in particular for its beautiful nature stone building and facilities and the former for the plant covering of its roadside boundary wall together with its grounds, murals and quality signage. Refurbishment work was in progress to the church located across from the school which hopefully will incorporate its roadside boundary wall. Wirescape and associated old service poles in this general area diminishes visual amenity. The Village Inn and the Post Office premises were nicely presented too as was the Kilcummin Rural Development premises. The car park of the Village Inn would enhance the streetscape with landscaping and / or resurfacing and delineating spaces.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdreachú:

The ‘Sense of Time’ section of the Biodiversity Park is a ‘first’ in this adjudicators experience and is one that should be replicated throughout the country; well done on its maintenance and continuous development. The Millennium Park / Biodiversity Park has many excellent features which deserve to be fully accessible to all especially those with mobility issues. New signage is excellent and offers good interpretation however the ‘Native Hedgerow’ sign was almost swallowed up by the planting! Recently planted native trees will be a wonderful addition as they mature and will provide for many habitats. Green areas within residential estates enjoy good maintenance. The roadside boundary walls of the GAA playing fields look a little stark and climbing plants here would enhance visual amenity.

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

Well done on regular checking of plants for information on species and using expert advice from local and on-line sources; it is excellent that the Tidy Towns group is vigilant regarding invasive species and not allowing them to gain a foothold. The Bog Walk signposted should have distance and location indicated in your application at least but ideally distance should be provided on the ground for the wider community; the same point is made in respect of the Wood Walk. The Biodiversity Park is a wonderful facility and the provision of an outdoor classroom is excellent. Bird boxes were noted in the school grounds, have they been inhabited? We’d love to have details of residents if these are available. The cemetery is beautifully managed and features a good roadside presentation with its boundary wall.

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

The composing facility for use within the Biodiversity Park is favourably noted and it excellent that it is freely available for the community also. Water harvesting is a noteworthy initiative also as is a solar powered signage spotted within the village for speed feedback. The recycling point is being well managed. Try to include projects under travel and energy for next year and invite the participation of residents where possible.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireact agus Rialú Bruscair:

It is a pleasure to report on the litter free status of Kilcummin on adjudication day; no incidents of graffiti or dumping were noted either which is a credit to the community. Participation in the Kerry County Clean-Up is favourably acknowledged as is the contribution to community involvement together with An Garda Síochána. That residents take responsibility for their own estates is laudable. A few untidy side areas were noted, an example being the Rural Development premises however this was not a serious problem. The visual clutter created by overhead service cables and their associated service poles were the main sources of untidiness on adjudication day, we are aware that this problem will take time to be resolved but anticipate that it has been brought to the attention of the local engineer.

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

Some beautiful gardens and roadside boundary walls near the cemetery were noted; stretches of high hedgerow are a handsome feature to roadside boundaries also. Residential estates enjoy good maintenance to their large green open spaces and entrances and name-plates / stones were admired. Estate residents could be encouraged to engage with projects under sustainability by participating in an energy project initiative or under nature and biodiversity by featuring wild flowers in sections of their green areas; there are many ideas for projects in the on-line Tidy Towns Handbook.

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

Field boundaries along approach roads looked well with some fine displays of wild flowers; name-plates and road signs are nicely presented and new fingerpost signage was admired. Many stretches of road surface were good however some car-parking spaces needed refurbishment, for example the disabled spaces at the Biodiversity Park. Stretches of natural stone wall are a handsome feature of Kilcummin. The bicycle stands to the roadside of the park will be a bonus for cyclists and the community regarding air-quality. If the toilet facilities at the CLG and Fitness Centre complex are accessible to the public they should be sign-posted from the village centre.

Concluding Remarks:

Kilcummin Looking Good has achieved a lot for the community and there appears to be strong support from a network of bodies and agencies; community spirit is good too. The village was a little difficult to adjudicate with roadworks and diversions but hopefully nothing significant was missed. Thank you.