**Tidy Towns Competition 2013**

Adjudication Report

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

County: **Kerry** Mark: **239**

Category: **B** Date(s): **07/06/2013**

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**TOTAL MARK 400 234 239**

**Overall Development Approach:**

Kilcummin is welcome to the 2013 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your detailed submission, which included the completed application form and a clear map of your village. The work programme attached to your map was easy to follow and considerably assisted the adjudicator’s task. The Ian McGregor report contains a fine development proposal for the park area adjoining the Millennium Garden and we look forward to the implementation of this project. You have a strong membership in your committee and the monthly meetings appear to work well for you. Your partnership involvement with other interested organisations such as Kerry County Council, North and East Kerry Development, Kilcummin Rural Development and the local school, is noted and the results of this successful co-operation is clearly to be seen throughout the village. Congratulations on your selection to represent Kerry in the ‘Pride of Place’ competition in 2013.

**The Built Environment:**

The public realm in the village has been extensively developed over the past few years. New paving, stone walls, public lighting and traffic bollards combine to present an excellent visual appearance along the centre street from the Presbytery down to the Post Office. Car parking is now well lined and provides a sense of order in this central location. Buildings such as the Church, Kilcummin National School, the Recreational Hall and Post Office are all presented to a high standard containing some impressive landscaping and colourful, floral displays. The Post Office, the Kilcummin Rural Development building and the private residence at the corner, combine to form a very attractive enclosure to the space here with the ornamental monkey puzzle tree providing a fine, visual focal point. All the buildings here were brightly painted and the stone walls are all maintained and developed to a high standard. At the GAA grounds painting was on-going to the Pavilion, boundary walls and stand in preparation for the ‘Pride of Place’ visit. The club has a proud tradition having had four members who achieved All-Ireland medals. The plaque display, acknowledging their success, makes a nice point of interest. The Village Inn would benefit from the addition of a name sign.

**Landscaping:**

The Church grounds contain some fine landscaping and the statue feature was admired. Opposite the newly planted beech hedgerow was noted. The newly planted trees here will look great as they mature. The old, dead, poplar trees on the footpath at the entrance to the Care Home. The Post Office looks very well as does the raised planted area at the shed further along.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Your village, with its mature woodlands, hedgerows and woodland walk, provides rich habitats for wildlife. These advantages are noted from your various reports and surveys. It is also noted that the school has commenced a wildlife survey. Your committee might consider having the results of the survey illustrated on bi-lingual, wildlife, boards at strategic locations in due course.

**Litter Control:**

The Spring Clean in conjunction with KWD appears to have been very successful, judging from the photographs submitted, and has been reinforced by your litter patrol and assistance from your C.E. Scheme workers. The village was again generally litter free with only a small scattering of paper close by the Bring Centre.

**Sustainable Waste and Resource Management:**

You are fortunate to be in a position of being able to dispose of the material from the removed ditch and stones at the new park development. The Anabla National School waste paper shredding initiative, for use as bedding, is a good objective. The summary of activities in your report relating to Kilcummin National School and Coolick National School is impressive and no doubt will lead to further advancements in this agenda in future years.

**Tidiness:**

The old Church now looks much neglected and in need of cleaning and painting. Can anything be done to improve the situation here? Some storage of building rubble opposite the well-presented Care Centre detracts from the visual appearance of this area.

**Residential Areas:**

Some attractive individual residences and garden presentations were admired on the burial ground road. Radharc na Sléibhte looks well with a well-manicured open space area and attractive entrance feature.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Pairc Chuimín contains a very well-designed roadside boundary, consisting of some vertical railway sleepers and stone panels disported along its length. The feature contains some maturing trees and good ground cover. Together they form an impressive entrance to the village. Elsewhere, entrance roads retain a good standard but verge-cutting is a little uneven in places.

**General Impression:**

There is a nice contrast between the rural woodland setting of the village and it’s recently completed urban improvement works. The centre is further enhanced by the provision of many, colourful, planted interventions developed by the community. The visual experience at Kilcummin is hugely enhanced as a result. Well done to a hard-working committee.