**Tidy Towns Competition 2014**

Adjudication Report

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

County: **Kerry** Mark: **244**

Category: **B** Date(s): **09/06/2014**

 **Maximum Mark**

 **Mark Awarded 2014**

Community Involvement & Planning 60 31

Built Environment and Streetscape 50 31

Landscaping and Open Spaces 50 32

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities 50 32

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management 50 11

Tidiness and Litter Control 90 53

Residential Streets & Housing Areas 50 32

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes 50 29

**TOTAL MARK 450 244**

**Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:**

Thank you for the filled up entry form, map, Kilcummin Green Space Biodiversity Project and Kerry Earth Education Project. I note you have 13 committee members and plenty of meetings are held to monitor progress and plan ahead. You are getting good support from North and East Kerry Development, Kerry County Council, allocations from County Councillors, Kilcummin Rural Development and CE Fás scheme. The local people are well informed of your activities and good to learn that the three local National school principals attend your meetings. This is a good approach to the competition.

**Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:**

There is a beautiful built environment in this compact and orderly village. The Catholic Church is very well maintained and I admired the Grotto. The Post Office and the Village Inn are neat and orderly. The GAA pavilion is beautiful and we admire the history carved on stones on outside there. An old church is in good condition and nicely painted and it could be further enhanced if some art work was painted on the window openings as if there were actual windows positioned there. Our Lady of Lourdes Day Care Centre was splendid with the nice car park, lawns and landscaping. The National School was very well presented with a good tarmac playing area and the nice green area up at the back. We admired the stone wall outside the Millennium Park and another up at the Church car par park. I was thrilled to see the Mass Rock; it is a great historical feature and you are complimented for its maintenance over the years, and I felt that a hand rail could be erected at the steps to assist people climbing up there.

**Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásannna Oscailte:**

I travelled up to the graveyard and it is a nice setting, but the grass needed to be cut back. When we leave the grass into hay it really should be taken away from the site, and this is not recommended as it could cause pollution; grass in such areas should always be left where it falls when it is cut on a regular basis, and in some instances the County Councils give a grant for grass cutting in a graveyard. I also felt that a creeping shrub could be planted in a few places on the boundary wall to blend it in with the lovely countryside all around. There is some lovely landscaping in this small village that add colour and freshness to the surroundings. Young and mature trees are in evidence in many areas. Beech hedging seen in some places is growing well and is excellent for the wildlife. The park is a nice amenity and there were good quality garden seats there. There were two first class flower containers nicely stocked with flowers outside the park, and further down at the corner we admire the rose bushes. Neatly trimmed grass lawns were enjoyed, and I loved the tastily painted milk churns at the Post Office. There was a colourful flower bed across the road from the old Church.

**Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:**

The Millennium Park is well stocked with trees and shrubs that are wildlife friendly, and this will be wonderful when the plants mature. Perhaps you could put a small sign for the start of the walk; I took a short walk there and it was a lovely experience. I did not see any of the squirrels or badgers and I presume they saw me. The singing of the birds here was a joy to behold. Is there any news from the wildlife survey that was planned for at the school? And once this information is available to you steps can then be taken to protect what wildlife you have and then encourage more to the area.

**Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:**

I note that waste is segregated at the school, GAA club, Rural Development Office, Care Facility and at the Village Inn. I did not see a green flag outside the school and wonder if they are participating in the green school initiatives, as there is great work done in these schemes to educate the children about best practices to be followed to protect the local environment. You could organise a workshop to enable the people to get a better knowledge of composting, and details of this can be obtained from the County Council.

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

This is a well organised village that looked neat and tidy. I observed a well serviced litter bin outside the park. Well done for participating in the National Spring clean-up, and this leaves the village and surrounding area in great shape. I saw a gentleman at work cleaning and sweeping. There were some weeds outside the GAA wall, but nothing really serious, and down further there was a small bit of rubbish dumped. ESB cables underground leave localities tidy. I agree that the bring bank is well maintained and it was being used on the day of my visit.

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

Pairc Chuimín has a lovely stone built entrance and splendid signage, it has a nice defined car park and down at the end we see the remains of the building materials left there and perhaps that area could be screened off; there is lovely landscaping in this estate, and we admire the small playing pitch. Radharc na Sleibhe contains beautiful houses brightly painted and lovely landscaping. There are some really lovely private houses all around that have great displays of shrubs, lawns and trees and this added to your great effort to present Kilcummin at its best.

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

We are greeted with nice bilingual signage at entrances to the village. An old pole for a road sign near the GAA could be removed. The clearly defined car parks make navigation around the village easy. We see an effective railing at the corner near the school which is a good safety measure. Cobble lock footpaths are admired in a few areas. There is a good quality railing outside Kilcummin Hall which is also a good safety measure.