

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilcummin** Ref: **1020**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **262**
Category: **B** Date(s): **24/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	36	36
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	32	34
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	33	35
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	26	26
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	58
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29	29
TOTAL MARK	450	255	262

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Thank you for your entry form. The local walks leaflet was very interesting – it would have been lovely to be able to explore the bog walk but alas work had to be done. Well done on communicating on your activities. Your FaceBook page was visited but it had not been updated for some time. Maybe a target would be to try and increase the number of followers to 200? But maybe this is not necessary as you have great links with the local school? It may be worth drafting a long-term plan and incorporating the views of secondary school children as well as the wider community into this.

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

You have a lovely sense of place in Kilcummin. Homes and premises at the main junction of the village all looked very well. The monkey puzzle tree in a front garden here was actually higher than the house. Considering how slow growing these trees are it shows you the length of time these homes have been in the community. The Post Office looked well – the door fittings here looked so well in contrast to the dark grey colour of the front door. The Rural Development Building was nicely presented with the milk churns demonstrating the history of the area. The conversion of the old national school into offices is to be praised. The inclusion of wooden sash windows here would be the icing on the cake in time.

There was lovely honeysuckle growing on the front of the recreational hall. You have done great work here and goodness it is used by nearly every club it seems!

There was a lovely new boundary fence put in at the GAA pitch. This is a very well presented area with a high quality club house and pitch.

Streetlights were very ornate – do take care in your choice of street furniture to ensure they are appropriate. It is doubtful that you would have had gas-powered street lights previously in Kilcummin.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

It was an absolute delight to explore your Millennium garden. Every corner was different. Your adjudicator liked the orchard of trees sourced from Irish SeedSavers – bringing back species that were nearly lost in Ireland. To understand that you can have a public garden with no weedkiller was great – how refreshing and good for wildlife. This is an excellent example for other TidyTowns groups. The sensor element of this garden allowed you to touch, feel, smell and even taste the variety of plants here. This is a lovely, safe inviting area and you should be highly pleased of your efforts here.

The landscaped bed at the main junction was lovely. The front carpark at the public house – the village inn, where the bring banks were located, could be enhanced. A couple of small raised landscaped beds would make a difference here.

There were nice painted wooden gates beside the community grounds. The landscaping and maturing trees at the National School looked lovely. It was good to see a lot of mulch at the base to provide essential nutrients for these trees.

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

Your environmental community park was wonderful and gave a great chance for the schools involved with its development to learn of the wildlife and habitats that they need. Do you organise any wildlife walks or talks? Have you surveyed the wildlife in the park?

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

This category of the competition is not just about diverting waste from landfill but it is about the efficient use of resources in your community including water and energy and sustainable transport. It was good to note that even in such a rural location, you have a food waste collection service. The propagation of bedding plants was a good task to learn on your training. Do you have a bus service? Have homes got solar panels or can they borrow meters to monitor energy usage? Does the school run a book rental scheme? There is some good information on the TidyTowns website on this category as there are a lot of marks to be gained here.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done on your regular litter picks and taking part in the Spring Clean.

Is there one type of litter that is a problem in Kilcummin? Doing a litter survey and then drafting actions to address this is recommended. The advertising signage should be removed as it is old and dirty at Pairc Chuimin.

The footpath to the Lady of Lourdes facility has been nicely integrated to allow trees to grow by ensuring the concrete is kept away from the base of the trees. The home itself was a beautifully designed and presented building. On the approach road to here there has been some rubble dumped behind the fence that needs to be tidied.

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

The private home opposite the village inn was picturesque. Homes in Mountain view estate were nicely presented. The grass area in the middle was quite marshy in places. It is suggested that part of the grass is allowed to grow longer to help retain the moisture while other parts are more tightly managed. Homes on the Mass Rock road were nicely presented. Pairc Chuimin was also nicely presented and it was good to see the maturing trees here but poor that there was no continuity of pavement from this estate into the village. It is noted that this is in your development plan so whatever assistance you can get to achieve this would be beneficial for your community.

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

You had a nice name stone for Cill chuimin as you enter the village. There were lovely ferns, yellow iris and foxgloves. There was a nice picket fence as you came up to the main junction.

The road surfaces were in a good condition. It was nice to see that a lot of the leylandi hedging had been cut back. This offers very little wildlife value and blocks sunshine.

The road warning signs to beware of children were nice and clean. Pavements looked well but it is a pity it is not continued up in front of the church. This would ensure pedestrians are not forced onto the road by parking cars at the Church.

Concluding Remarks:

Kilcummin was a delightful community to explore. You have embraced your very rural environment and worked with it, as opposed to fight to control it. Your village, including the millennium gardens and GAA facilities, was a pleasure to behold. Well done on all of your work this year!