IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD - MARKING SHEET

Name of group: Colourful Kilmacolm	**Assessment date:** 23 June 2014
Name of assessor:	**Robin Miller**

Introduction:

Colourful Kilmacolm is a community group that was formed in May 2013, with the aim of bringing colour, through gardening, to the already beautiful village of Kilmacolm in Inverclyde.

Section A - Community Participation (40% or 40 points)

The group is working towards things such as:
(e.g. involving local people, working in partnership, gaining support)

- Membership of the group costs a nominal £5 per annum and has already attracted around 80 members.
- In the first year, the group has been particularly successful in obtaining funding through Inverclyde Community Fund, Inverclyde Council Small Grants and Awards for All (Lottery Funding).
- There are examples of good partnership working with the local authority (Inverclyde Council), particularly with the Local Councillor and in terms of allocation of the disused concrete planters.
- Good to see the group working with both the local schools. The schools have established gardening clubs and the group has successfully presented to both.
- The group has also established excellent working relationships with the Kilmacolm New Community Centre. This work has been instrumental to the sourcing and siting of the quite stunning planters in front of the Cargill Centre, right at the heart of the community.
- Also good to see that the group has established an informative web Site, and this can be visited at http://colourfulkilmacolm.org.uk/

Total points assessed for Section A (out of 40)	20

Section B - Environmental Responsibility (30% or 30 points)

The group is engaged in environmental activities such as:
(e.g. conservation, composting, improving green space, reducing litter and dog fouling)

Colourful Kilmacolm has the deployment of colour, through planters and borders at the heart of its mission. In the first year of development the group has concentrated on funding and development of new planters in front of the Cargill Centre.

- Adoption and recycling of the concrete planters at Birkmyre Park.
- Purchase of all, where possible environmentally friendly, equipment and materials.
- Planters are already attracting a variety of insect life, and a number of bees were evident during the visit.
- The village was virtually litter free during my visit and this was good to see.

Total points assessed for Section B (out of 30)	12

Gardening Achievement (30% or 30 points)

The group is employing good gardening practices appropriate to the area, such as:
(e.g. good plant choice, creative design, maintenance of plants)

Colourful Kilmacolm is off to a flying start with its initiative. Achievements include

- The purchase, deployment and cultivation of six stunning large planters in front of the Cargill Centre at the heart of the village.
- Adoption and cultivation of the concrete planters on Birkmyre Road has added an impressive array of colours in front of the school.
- Plant choices throughout are impressive, with a good range to reflect spring, summer, and winter growing seasons.
- In addition to the encouraging levels of membership, the group's committee have received much positive comment from the wider community.

Total points assessed for Section C (out of 30)	12
GRAND TOTAL POINTS ASSESSED	44
LEVEL ACHIEVED	IMPROVING

Areas of achievement:

Without doubt Colourful Kilmacolm is off to an impressive start to its venture. Amongst its many achievements it is worth recording:

- Impressive first year in which funding and membership has been established. This, in no small part, due to the dedication and diligence of the Chair and his committee.
- Early forays into the wider community have been kicked off through presentations to both of the local schools gardening clubs.
- The six planters at the heart of the community are particularly impressive, and add a real spark of colour to what is already an impressive village centre.
- The adoption of the concrete planters have not only added colour to the park and school area, but it has also prevented what could have become something of an eyesore. Well done.

Areas for development:

Colourful Kilmacolm has achieved much in its first year and has ambition to not only achieve much more, but to do so in a manner that is sympathetic to the conservative and tradition nature of the village.

- Please continue with your early efforts in the adoption of borders and verges, particularly at the Cargill Centre. The planters are impressive here and this could be supplemented with a similar approach to the borders.
- Good to see the working with both the local schools. Explore all opportunities to develop this further. Perhaps with a formal programme of planter/border adoption from the schools.
- Also good to see (outwith the group) some planters in front of shops and businesses. Perhaps there is an opportunity to work with local traders to extend this. I have seen other similar projects adopt this approach to stunning effect.
- Equally, good to see dialogue with local authority. Keep this going as you seek funding in the years ahead, as well as identifying other parts of the village in which to spread your colourful message.
- I like web sites for community groups and it is good to see that there is one in place for Colourful Kilmacolm. Remember to keep the content up to date, and consider the use of social media sites (Such as Facebook and Twitter) to spread and promote your message.
- As your project develops further over the years, you may wish to consider some environmentally friendly measures such as the use of peat free composts, or deployment of wild flowers in borders and verges.
- As part of your sympathetic approach to extending planters throughout the village, and due to the narrow pavements and walkways, you may wish to consider planters above head height, whether wall mounted or freestanding unit.

RESULTS

Level	Description	Points
Level 1	Establishing	0-35
Level 2	Improving	36-52
Level 3	Developing	53-68
Level 4	Thriving	69-85
Level 5	Outstanding	86-100