



IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD - MARKING SHEET

Name of group: Colourful Kilmacolm	Assessment date: 29 July 2016
Name of assessor: Sandra Anton	
<p>Introduction:</p> <p>Colourful Kilmacolm is a community group which began in 2013 and consists of 120 members who are passionate about their village. Through community engagement with the local Council, the local community, businesses and other agencies, members have worked hard to improve the area in which they live. This is evident from seeing the attractive planting of flowers and maintenance of greenspace areas in and around the village. This brings such colour and vibrancy to the village of Kilmacolm.</p> <p>The group have now extended their planting project to planting areas on lay-bys on the outskirts of Kilmacolm to include Spring planting and colourful Wildflower sections which are pleasing to the eye on entering the village.</p>	
<p>Section A - Community Participation (40% or 40 points)</p>	
<p>The group is working towards things such as: (e.g. involving local people, working in partnership, gaining support)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group has a membership of 120, with 9 Committee members. There is a £5 per annum subscription fee. This goes into the funds to help buy plants. • Good partnership working with Inverclyde Council. The group previously received a small start-up grant from the Inverclyde Community Fund and a generous grant from Inverclyde Council Grants to Voluntary Bodies. Also Awards for All Lottery Funding and Keep Scotland Beautiful Community Grant Funding. All funding allowed the group to purchase materials, planters and plants etc. to place in the village areas. • The planters at the Cargill Community Centre, Piazza, Market Place and Time Capsule are still looking very colourful and still being maintained by members of the group. • Concrete Planters maintained by the group outside Birkmyre Park are also looking extremely colourful and well maintained. • There are also 3 addition attractive barrelled planters at the corner of Moss Road 	



and Bridge of Weir Road.

- Good partnership working with the Cargill Community Centre.
- Membership funds have allowed the group to buy new barrelled planters.
- The group have a rota system where members take turns of watering and carrying out maintenance of plants in planters and hanging baskets. As well as ongoing planting and maintenance at the sloped verge at Pullman Slope.
- A member of the group is also a member of the local Horticultural Society which is good for sharing tips and ideas for their village planting.
- Villagers donate plants.
- Group advertise themselves and their activities through the Greenock Telegraph and the Greenock Advertiser.
- Good partnership working with the local community and local shops, who have planters or hanging baskets outside their premises.
- Local flower shop provides water facility for watering planting in the village.
- Good partnership working with 2 local primary schools, with the group assisting with school planting day at St Columba's.
- Committee meetings are held and this allows people to meet socially also, getting them out of the house and meeting people. The group also meet in each other's houses.
- The group wants to try and encourage younger people, though this can be restricted through work and family commitments.
- The group have had previous discussion with Scouts. In the future they plan to involve the Scouts, Guides and Brownies in their planting projects.

Total points assessed for Section A (out of 40)	30
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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)

- Litter picks are carried out by members of the group. There is also adequate bin provision in the area.
- The recycled concrete planters at Birkmyre Park which have been adopted by the group are still being maintained by members. Very colourful and vibrant, consisting





of bedding plants surrounded by ivy.

- Peat free compost in barrels.
- Group are keen to have a piece of ground in the village improved/developed. Council have pruned the trees to let in more light. Plans for bedding and edging to be put in and renovate hard standing area. Discussions with Council are ongoing.
- Planters have reservoirs inside and group can make use of the tap behind the Community Centre for watering.
- Plants used are good for biodiversity. Again it was noted that there were insects surrounding the plants in the planters and surrounding areas.
- Wildflowers planted at lay-by will encourage biodiversity.
- Group giving pots to the local nursery. They also give bulbs to the school.

The group carries out a big weed at the Pullman Slope once a month with 15-20 people being involved.

Total points assessed for Section B (out of 30)	22
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Gardening Achievement (30% or 30 points)	
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The group is employing good gardening practices appropriate to the area, such as: (e.g. good plant choice, creative design, maintenance of plants)

- Local shops have attractive flower displays, there are 28 which include planters and hanging baskets.
- Attractive barrel and planter displays at Piazza, Market Place, Time Capsule, Moss Road & Bridge of Weir Road and outside Birkmyre Park. All areas well maintained and looked after.
- There is now a now a wild flower display at lay- by on the Road to Port Glasgow, created by the group members. In the spring time there were also crocus, snowdrops and tulips nearby.
- The Pullman Slope is being well maintained with a mix of plant growing there also.
- There is a good selection of plants and flowers being grown. Herbaceous, Nasturtiums, Crocosmia, Cotoneaster, Tulips, Daffodils, Holly, Begonia, Petunia, Lobelia, Bacopa, Cordyline. Lobelias and Geraniums etc.
- Choice of plants reflects the growing seasons during spring, summer and winter.

Total points assessed for Section C (out of 30)	23
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GRAND TOTAL POINTS ASSESSED	75
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LEVEL ACHIEVED	Thriving
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Areas of achievement:

The group have worked very hard and I was impressed with their commitment and enthusiasm. There is a real sense of Civic Pride in the local area.

Good to see continued community engagement with the Council, local businesses and Schools. Good to see the shop owners taking responsibility and contributing to the look of the village by having their planters outside or hanging baskets.

Very impressed with how well the planters, barrels, hanging baskets and Pullman slope are all maintained with a great choice and variety of herbaceous plants and other flowers.

As you know you can keep up to date with The Keep Scotland Beautiful Website <http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/>, who have lots of useful information and advice to help groups with their Community Projects.

Also keep up to date with the Royal Horticultural Society website <https://www.rhs.org.uk/> for more tips and ideas on plants, growing your own, wildlife gardening and gardening events etc.

Areas for development:

Good to see good community engagement with the local Council, schools, local businesses and local press. Continue to engage as this is beneficial for future funding prospects and future developments and improvements planned for the local area.

In order to share ideas and experience it may be worthwhile speaking to other groups who are doing similar projects.

Continue to promote group activities in the village to keep encouraging additional active members to the group.

It is good that Colourful Kilmacolm has a website, keep updating this in order to promote the hard work of the group.

Noted that the group had an interest in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme and encouraging young people to the group. Maybe further engage with organised groups like the Scouts, Guide and Girls/Boys Brigade Groups and organisations who work with young people with regard involving these groups.

RESULTS

Level	Description	Points
Level 1	Establishing	0-35
Level 2	Improving	36-52





Level 3	Advancing	53-68
Level 4	Thriving	69-85
Level 5	Outstanding	86-100

