

IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD - MARKING SHEET

Name of group: Colourful Kilmacolm	Assessment date: 1st Aug 2018
Name of assessor: Robin Miller	Robin Miller
<p>Introduction:</p> <p>Colourful Kilmacolm is in its fifth year, having been inaugurated in 2013. The groups' aim is to promote, for the benefit of the inhabitants of Kilmacolm and the surrounding area, without distinction of sex, race, age, political religious or other opinions, the enhancement of the village through the provision of floral displays and planters.</p> <p>The Group has grown to 170 members this year, all of whom 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>Colourful Kilmacolm has enjoyed very productive formative years and have certainly succeeded in adding a kaleidoscope of colour through the effective deployment of planters to include bedding plants, shrubbery and wildflowers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership of the Group is open to all residents of Kilmacolm and has seen an increase this year to around 170 members. The group has 9 Committee members and levies a small (£5 per annum) subscription fee which helps buy plants and other materials. • There is good partnership working with Inverclyde Council, and in particular with the local Councillor. The group receives small grant funding from from Inverclyde Council Grants to Voluntary Bodies. In addition, Colourful Kilmacolm works closely with the Council to identify, adopt and develop areas of vacant land. • Other funding sources have included Inverclyde Community Grant, All Lottery Funding and Keep Scotland Beautiful Community Grant Funding. • In respect of the wider community, Colourful Kilmacolm enjoys good partnership working with the Cargill Community Centre, Local Primary Schools, Girl Guides and Scout Groups. This year that has been extended to include the infants at Duchal Nursery where the children have planted a number of bulbs. • There is a good community spirit with this group, who employ 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 very impressive 	



<p>Pullman Slope. This spirit is supplemented by residents' donations of water (for planters and so forth), flowers and other plants, as well as fertiliser and monetary donations. The group were also given a free spot in the local Farmer's Market and this contributed to the growth in membership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Colourful Kilmacolm has always enjoyed an active and informative website at http://colourfulkilmacolm.org.uk/. It is good to see that extended to include social media this year. In addition, the group advertise themselves and their activities through the Greenock Telegraph and the Greenock Advertiser, and contributes occasional written articles to those journals. • Good partnership working with the local community and local shops, who have planters or hanging baskets outside their premises. The local Florist also provides water facility for watering planting in the village. • 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. • Impressed that the group are sharing their experiences with Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council who are embarking on their community projects. They really will benefit from Kilmacolm's experience. 	
Total points assessed for Section A (out of 40)	34
Section B - Environmental Responsibility (30% or 30 points)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the day of the assessment Kilmacolm presented itself as a litter free environment, and there were numerous litter bins throughout the village. The group contribute to this by attending to any litter that has strayed into the planters or Pullman Slope. • The recycled concrete planters at Birkmyre Park which have been adopted by the group are still being maintained to a high standard by members. Very colourful and vibrant, consisting of bedding plants surrounded by Ivy. • Planters have reservoirs inside and group can make use of the tap behind the Community Centre for watering and Peat free compost is used across the village. • This year Colourful Kilmacolm have continued to support the Explorer Scouts in the development of spare ground at market Place. Overgrown trees and shrubs have been pruned and an impressive planter is augmented with attractive bedding plants and shrubs in the borders. Not surprisingly the improved light and plant choice has improved insect life. Indeed there were a number of bees hovering during the assessment. Well done! • Planters have reservoirs inside and group can make use of the tap behind the Community Centre for watering. This is further helped by the donation of organic biostimulator fertiliser. • Plants used are excellent for biodiversity, and a huge array of bees were evident during the visit. From wildflowers to show flowers and shrubs, there were insects surrounding the plants in the planters and surrounding areas throughout the village. • Good to see the work with the Council in removing various stones and debris from the village plots. 	
Total points assessed for Section B (out of 30)	24





Gardening Achievement (30% or 30 points)

Colourful Kilmacolm enjoy the encyclopaedic floral knowledge of its chair. Not surprisingly the plant choice and arrangement throughout the village is impressive. Particularly:

- Attractive barrel and planter displays at Piazza, Market Place, Time Capsule, Moss Road & Bridge of Weir Road and outside Birkmyre Park are all particularly impressive and adds not only colour to the village, but also offers a real welcome to visitors.
- Despite the difficult growing season this year, Colourful Kilmacolm continues to maintain and develop the wild flower display at the lay-by on the Road to Port Glasgow.
- Local businesses have joined in the 'colourful theme' and a number of shops boast attractive flower displays, of which there are 28 which includes planters and hanging baskets.
- The Pullman Slope has been impressively developed to a professional standard and continues to be well maintained. There is a good mix of plant and shrub choice here. The group has every right to be very proud of this development.
- 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.
- 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 and add a real splash of colour to the area.
- Colourful Kilmacolm is mindful of plant choice in respect of the growing seasons, and plant choice offers that all important splash of colour throughout spring, summer, autumn and winter.

Total points assessed for Section C (out of 30)	26
GRAND TOTAL POINTS ASSESSED	84
LEVEL ACHIEVED	Level 4 - Thriving

Areas of achievement:

Colourful Kilmacolm continue to work exceptionally hard for the good and enjoyment of the community. Particularly impressive is their commitment and enthusiasm. There is a real sense of Civic Pride, and colour, in Kilmacolm.

- The chair (complete with that encyclopaedic knowledge) and the committee are to be congratulated on their endeavours, their work ethic and enthusiasm that makes this project the success that it is.
- Community engagement with Local Authority (that additional greenspace at market Place sounds promising), local businesses, schools and Nursery is particularly welcome. Good to see the shop owners taking responsibility and contributing to the look of the village by having their planters outside or hanging baskets.
- The work at the Pullman Slope is particularly impressive (this assessor recalls the slope of overgrown weeds a few years ago). The excellent plant choice, coupled with a high standard of regular maintenance, results in a colourful visually appealing community asset. Very well done.
- The wider community spirit is also welcome, and with it the contribution of water and plants. It all adds up to colour, visual appeal and good environmental responsibility.





- 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:

Colourful Kilmacolm have enjoyed a successful first few years. Not surprisingly they are aware that there is always more to be done. I would encourage this and in particular:

- Please do continue the excellent community engagement with Inverclyde Council, local schools, 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. Good to see the sharing of ideas with Inverkip and Wemyss Bay. It would be worthwhile to extend this to other groups who undertake similar projects. Equally, and just as importantly, you have your own success story to share with others, perhaps the annual award ceremony in Stirling is an opportunity to do that.

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

