



IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD - MARKING SHEET

Name of group: Colourful Kilmacolm	Assessment date: 01 Aug 2017
Name of assessor:	Robin Miller
<p>Introduction:</p> <p>Colourful Kilmacolm is in its fourth 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 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 much colour and vibrancy to the village of Kilmacolm.</p> <p>The group has extended its planting project to 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>	
Section A - Community Participation (40% or 40 points)	
<p>The group is working towards things such as: (e.g. involving local people, working in partnership, gaining support)</p> <p>Colourful Kilmacolm has enjoyed very productive formative years, and has 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 over 150 members. The group has nine 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 the group receives small grant funding from Inverclyde Council. 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's Community Grant Funding. • In respect of the wider community, Colourful Kilmacolm enjoys good partnership working with the Cargill Community Centre, local Primary Schools, and Girl Guides and Scout Groups. • There is good community spirit, and the group employs 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 Pullman Slope. This spirit is 	



supplemented by resident's donations of water (for planters and so forth), flowers and other plants.

- A member of the group is also a member of the local Horticultural Society, which is good for sharing tips and ideas for village planting.
- Colourful Kilmacolm enjoys an active and informative website at <http://colourfulkilmacolm.org.uk/>. In addition, the group advertises itself and its 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 a water facility for watering plants 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 meets in each other's houses. The group wants to encourage younger people, though this can be restricted through work and family commitments.

Total points assessed for Section A (out of 40)

32

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)

- 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 contributes 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 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.
- Peat free compost is used across the village.
- This year, Colourful Kilmacolm has been at the forefront of 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 the insect life. Indeed, there was a number of bees hovering during the assessment. Well done!
- Plants used are excellent for biodiversity. From wildflowers to show flowers and shrubs, there were insects surrounding the plants in the planters and surrounding areas throughout the village.
- The group gives pots to the local nursery. It also donates bulbs to the local primary school.

Total points assessed for Section B (out of 30)

23

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 benefits from 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 - all particularly impressive and add not only colour to the village, but also a real welcome.
- Colourful Kilmacolm continues to maintain and develop the wild flower display at the lay-by on the road to Port Glasgow. This year the group is delighted that some of last year's wildflower efforts have made a welcome return.
- Local businesses have joined in the 'colourful theme', and a number of shops boast attractive flower displays, of which there are 28 including 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 are 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 the plant choice offers that all important splash of colour throughout spring, summer, autumn and winter.

Total points assessed for Section C (out of 30)	25
GRAND TOTAL POINTS ASSESSED	80
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 the groups' 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 the local authority (the additional greenspace at Market Place sounds promising), local businesses and schools is particularly welcome. Good to see the shop owners taking responsibility and contributing to the look of the village by having their planters or hanging baskets outside.
- The work at the Pullman Slope is particularly impressive (I recall the slope of overgrown weeds a few years ago). The excellent plant choice, coupled with a very high standard of regular maintenance, results in a colourful and 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 www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/ which 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. Every It's Your Neighbourhood group has access to free advice provided by the RHS – information about this is on page six of your manual: www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/media/136476/2017-guidance-for-its-your-neighbourhood-entrants.pdf

Areas for development:

Colourful Kilmacolm has enjoyed a successful first few years. Not surprisingly, it is 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.
- I liked your groups' website and the fact that it was up to date. In addition, perhaps there is an opportunity to extend this to Social Media. Facebook and Twitter (and others) play such an important role these days in promoting community groups to a wider audience. Not only is it a method to appeal to a younger audience, perhaps that younger audience could contribute a social media volunteer via the Scouts, Guides or other youth groups.
- In order to share ideas and experiences, it may be worthwhile speaking to other groups which undertake similar projects. Equally, and just as importantly, you have your own success story to share with others, perhaps at the annual Beautiful Scotland and It's Your Neighbourhood seminar in Stirling is an opportunity to do that.
- Whilst funding is not an immediate issue for this group, I couldn't help but be in awe at the photographic splendour of the village and its wonderful floral displays. Perhaps this presents a future opportunity for production of a Colourful Kilmacolm calendar for onward resale.

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

