

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **LABASHEEDA**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21
Landscaping	40	22
The Built Environment	40	22
Litter Control	40	23
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	171

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is not clear if you are working to an agreed plan. If not you need a three to five year plan that will chart the way forward for continued progress. You need to phase your developments. You have many beautiful buildings and your location so near the sea is a great advantage and also presents you with numerous opportunities.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new category that can benefit places like Labasheeda in particular. At St. Kieran's Centre I could observe a great variety of wildlife on the foreshore. Perhaps you might consider erecting a display board at this point that would illustrate the wealth of wildlife in the area. This might be done as a project involving the local school.

LANDSCAPING

You have a good selection of flower beds developed throughout the village and on the Ennis approach in particular. Some individuals have gone to great trouble in presenting their houses and gardens. One of your problems is related to an inordinate amount of weed growth in almost all parts of the village. Much of this should be sprayed in late spring and would check weed growth for the season. You might also consider developing extra small spaces for flower displays.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

For the most part all public buildings looked well on adjudication day. The school seems to have been freshly painted and the church and environs are very attractive. There is a lot of weed growth around St. Kieran's Centre. You should consider erecting failte signs at the principal approach roads. Many buildings have corrugated roofs that need painting and many farm gates would be enhanced by painting. The Telecom kiosk is quite shabby. The problem mentioned last year about dereliction is still apparent. This will only improve in time. Infill housing could replace some of the dereliction.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter was not evident on adjudication day and you seem to have adequate bins. Shopkeepers should be encouraged to supply their own litter bins in areas where necessary.

TIDINESS

You have a problem with tidiness in that the derelict and uncared for spaces already referred to are causing untidiness. In some cases unoccupied houses have been whitewashed and this is commendable. It is accepted that the long village street needs a lot of attention and people will need to cater for areas beyond their own boundary. Developers should be encouraged to finish well and leave buildings free from rubble and unwanted building materials.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

In general, houses are well presented, but you need more co-ordination. Could you promote a painting blitz for '97. The village, so near the sea needs lots of colour. Continue promoting the concept of hanging baskets.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There are now valuable marks to be gained in this section but people will need to lay greater emphasis on side entrances. Many are well kept, but others have been neglected from the main entrance. The

painting of some farm gates would improve the appearance of the village - some of these gates are rich in character. The area with old farming machinery at the Ennis approach junction has potential to be very attractive. Perhaps this may happen when development is completed here.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You need an agreed improvements plan that can be phased over a number of years if you are to progress in the competition. The village has the potential to be a high scorer in the competition but you will need to solve the problem of dereliction. Try and get the whole community working together, and maintain your existing developments to a high standard.