

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 27-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	30
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	25	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	24	23
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	17	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	189	184

Labasheeda, County Clare.

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for well completed entry form, map with key to where works are sited and also before and after photographs. The smiling faces of the group of Labasheeda Litter Pickers who collected some 28 bags of rubbish is tangible proof of the commitment to the Tidy Towns effort in the village. It is indeed appropriate that the people of Labasheeda are interested in its welfare as it is a village set in very lovely surroundings containing buildings of character. You mention the date of judging as too early – however, this schedule has to be adhered to as second and third adjudication's have to take place, where necessary, and the winners announced early in September. In view of this we would suggest that you adjust your work and planting schedule where possible for the future.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church and Presbytery, the School and the Post Office are well maintained. However, perhaps the plastic window boxes at the Post Office could be changed for something more environmentally friendly. Casey's Pub, also generally very well maintained, has the same problem. The two stone buildings at the waterside – the Labasheeda National School 1887 and St. Kierans Centre are very attractive and well maintained. The stone tables/seats at St. Kieran's are appropriate and practical here. The gate of the Mid-Western Health Board needed painting. The old stone blue and white telephone box is attractive but must be kept well maintained. We note that the materials at present being stored at the Creamery will be moved and the area cleaned up when works are complete – no doubt this includes long term plans for the building itself. We also note from your plans that you propose to demolish the small overgrown shed shown as number 2 on your map and this is to be welcomed. Beautiful stone walls throughout the village were admired and it was noted that more were being built at the time of adjudication.

LANDSCAPING

The planting on the way to the pier is attractive and also the excellent development work undertaken in this area. In general it should be noted that planting should be bigger than the tub – this was not the case in a number of instances in Labasheeda although the tub planted with hostas outside a private house in the village was an exception. One tall plant for height in the centre and a mass of colour around this is the way suggested to make an impact. The assembly of stones in a sculpture like setting is

very attractive. In the village the tree planting was good but there were no seats here – only brackets for same. The planting by the School and the Church was very attractive and well maintained.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

In your situation on the Shannon Estuary there are wonderful possibilities in this area and perhaps the local school children should be asked to undertake a study of the local flora and fauna to get you started. However, the planting and the green areas already established contribute in this category.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter bins were noted in the village which was virtually litter free on the day of adjudication. Well done on your group clean-ups and no doubt making the children aware of the necessity not to litter.

TIDINESS

Mostly the village had a neat and tidy appearance – some drainage pipes are stacked at the T junction but no doubt these will be moving shortly. Kerbsides were mostly weed free.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Ninety per cent of the houses in the village and at the Mountshannon Housing Estate are contributing to the Tidy Towns effort. It was noted that two new houses are being built at present and no doubt the new owners will be encouraged to become involved in your endeavours. Unfortunately, as mentioned by you, there is some dereliction throughout the village which needs to be addressed in the long term. A house is also for sale at present and it would be hoped that it will be presented better by the new owners when purchased. A couple of the houses in the village at the top of the road to the pier have created nice rear developments of patios, conservatories and provided umbrellas and garden furniture which enhance this area.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Signage is good throughout but we would suggest that a sign be placed to indicate the whereabouts of the pier. The street verges are a little rough and weedy in some places. However, the paths by stone walls and kerbsides are mostly weed free.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A lovely village with space and good river aspects - no doubt Labasheeda will improve continually in the years ahead.