

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Labasheeda**

Ref: **44**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **223**

Category: **A**

Date: **30/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	37
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	30	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	23
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>215</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for a fine submission, sketch map and plans for next five years. You are building well on the success of your Endeavour Award last year. The information supplied proved helpful on adjudication day. It was heartening to witness so much work on hand and the FÁS scheme in particular is of significant benefit. A word of caution - don't rely on Fas for all your success as the whole thrust of Tidy Towns rests on the voluntary effort from the community. You have a long linear village to contend with and a lot of maintenance also on the approach roads, but you are coping well. You also have an added dimension with the Quay, which requires constant attention from the estuary fluctuation.

### The Built Environment:

There is a very good example of infill opposite the Health Centre. T. F. McNamara is now well restored and well done on retaining the traditional features of this important building. Stone Cottage is well presented. The church and school, your two most noticeable buildings in the village are presented to a high standard. The heritage centre was a hive of activity and is your power-house for the Fas scheme. There is welcome evidence of very good individual effort throughout the village and many people were observed painting - spurred on no doubt by the impending arrival of Uachtaran na hEireann two days later - so well done.

## **Landscaping:**

You have raised your standard in this section and there was a plethora of new developments in evidence. Your work on improving stone walls is commendable. The many areas you have cleaned up over the past year will further enhance when the planting gets a grip. Colour in many forms was strong throughout the village and the great display of flowers, shrubs, window boxes, tubs and hanging baskets combine to give a bright effect to the village. You have some unfinished landscaping at the Quay that should be pursued for 2004.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Well done on the erection of well illustrated plaques throughout the village. These are an important and informative addition to the village and trace the history and topography of the area. The standard and presentation of these plaques is to a high standard. The whole area has great potential for promoting wildlife and the listing of local species, perhaps in leaflet form, might be worth pursuing.

## **Litter Control:**

We cannot fault you here as the village looked litter free on adjudication day. This is praiseworthy and reflects a caring community of all ages. The periodic emptying of litter bins is quite successful. The bottle bank may be a little far removed from the village, but you are the best judge of that.

## **Tidiness:**

You are working on improving the derelict sites and derelict buildings which are causing the untidiness. This will come in time. We look forward to the installation of a Reed Bed system, which is successful in other areas. Some of the untidy areas of last year have improved and this is reflected in your marks.

## **Residential Areas:**

You have a mixture of old and new houses in and around the village. It has to be said that some new and indeed expensive houses are not in keeping with the rural ethos of the village. Developers should be encouraged to design and develop in sympathy with the traditional material and design of the area - this extends to public bodies also.

## **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The road structure is very good and the Quay development is of a very high quality. The Golden Vale site on the western approach is quite an eye sore and needs urgent attention. Mountshannon Estate has potential for much improvement and should be tackled by Fas in association with the residents. Signage is now excellent in and around Labasheeda. The bilingual townland signs under the Clar programme are excellent - well done. This is now a valuable educational asset. The signage for St. Kieran's Well needs mileage on it - spare a thought for strangers who have no idea how far from the village they have to travel. Also at the field give the distance in yards/metres.

## **General Impression:**

You have progressed. Your willingness to respond to suggestions in the report, is most delightful. The village looked really well and your task now is to keep up the momentum, bring the community with you and stick to a phased plan.

Good luck for 2004

