

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Labasheeda**

Ref: **676**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **227**

Category: **A**

Date: **06/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	39
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	24
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	14	15
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	227	223

Overall Developmental Approach:

The documentation received, consisting of entry form and ancillary notes including 3/5 year plan; excellent map detailing where work has taken place in the village and a notrs on the Labasheeda Heritage Awareness Project were all helpful and informative. The work undertaken to date in Labasheeda is impressive and your plans under several headings augur well for the future. The fact that you work closely with the community and all statutory bodies/local organisations is commendable as this partnership approach is the key to achieving your aims. Labasheeda being included in the Clare County Council Development Plan is very good news as this will bring about the installation of a sewerage and waste water treatment plant for the village. Labasheeda has progressed well in recent years and we are sure was enjoyed by President Mary McAleese during her visit last year which is commemorated by a stone plaque in the grounds of St. Kieran's Community Centre.

The Built Environment:

Public buildings such as the Church, School and St. Kieran's Community Centre were looking well on the day of adjudication with good decor and nice landscaping. The Post Office and the Garda Barracks were also well presented. Dereliction is being eroded with buildings being renovated and

the disguising of others. Hopefully, the new sewerage scheme will further alleviate this problem and all these buildings will receive attention in the not too distant future. Whilst it will be good to see the village coming fully alive again, the fact that one side of the street bounds on to a green stretch of land overlooking the Estuary adds to it's attractiveness and this situation should be retained if possible. What is happening at the old Creamery? - this is a very unattractive site at present. In general it should be remembered that visible gable ends of premises also need to be painted. We drove the four miles to Kilherrin Point in search of your proposed Heritage project in relation to the Battery Fortress. This is a very interesting historic building and your future plans in this regard are ambitious and worthwhile.

Landscaping:

There are many instances of good planted areas throughout the village including the pier area; adjacent to the School and Community Hall and on the approach roads. Outdoor furniture such as picnic tables and seating were very well maintained throughout. Picnic tables and some planting are also in place at Kilherrin Point. The FAS project of wall building near the housing estate is impressive and when completed will enhance this area considerably. At the housing estate the maturing trees were admired but long grass needed to be cut at the top of the estate. The best hanging baskets and window boxes this year were seen by the Adjudicator in Labasheeda. These were overflowing with a riot of colour with some out of the ordinary and imaginative planting being used. The four heritage boards erected in various locations are informative and attractive.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The heritage boards mentioned above contribute under this heading, as each contain details of wildlife in the area. Of course, all the other planting undertaken also contributes under this category. Fuschia, Meadow Sweet, wild roses and Honeysuckle all gave an attractive appearance to the roadside banks on the road to Kilherrin Point. We note that information on local wildlife is also contained on your website www.labasheeda.net

Litter Control:

Mostly good throughout with litter bins in strategic positions. One of the regular litter picks mentioned in your submission was taking place during adjudication. However, at the pier there was some litter - cans and crisp bags being left at one of the picnic tables, despite the fact that litter bins were in evidence in this area.

Tidiness:

Mostly good throughout with some exceptions. The stabling area to the right of the pier still retains an untidy appearance with an old bath being used as a water trough and other debris also in situ. Another poor area is in front of the old Creamery and further on this road at the housing estate the positioning of a rather shabby caravan on blocks in the most visible position in this area gives an untidy appearance. This is unfair to the residents here who maintain their houses and boundary walls to a good standard. The bottle bank in Labasheeda is well positioned. Roadside kerbs were weed free throughout.

Residential Areas:

Most private houses were well maintained in and around the village, some with very pleasant gardens. The derelict buildings previously mentioned have been disguised to some extent except for a two storey pink house in the centre of the village. Hopefully, long term solutions to these problems will be found in the not too distant future.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces were mixed - roads in the village, obviously given temporary repairs and a good surface on the road to Kilherrin point. As you are now in line for a new sewerage system no doubt resurfacing of all roads will not take place until this is completed. Signage was mainly good and the new signs for St. Kieran's Well and the sign for the Dolphin Watch area were noted. Also noted on the road to the Point and in the locality in general were the attractive stone townland name plaques.

General Impression:

Labasheeda has many attributes which are being cared for and developed by the Labasheeda Community Pride Tidy Towns Committee. You can certainly take pride in your work to date and we wish you every success for the future.