

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Labasheeda**

Ref: **293**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **232**

Category: **A**

Date: **12/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	28
General Impression	10	8	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>227</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the information received including excellent map with attached key to same showing where work has taken place around the village. This was very helpful on the day. Thank you also for the document outlining the issues raised in the entry form giving yourself some more space in which to do so. This was necessary as indeed quite a considerable amount of activity on a number of fronts has taken place around Labasheeda and deserves to receive full mention. The list of organisations that you work with is impressive. Of course the most important partners that you must co-operate with are the residents of Labasheeda themselves and it would appear that 90% of these are committed to the Tidy Towns effort. Another very important body, of course, is Clare County Council to whom you have been talking of your problems in regard to the lack of a waste water treatment plant; missing Kilrush signage and repeated flooding in the village. Another problem which only the Local Authority can resolve is the poor road situation in and around the village. The increase in membership of the Labasheeda Community Pride Tidy Towns Committee is to be welcomed. The signage, which is bilingual throughout, is also to be welcomed and means a continuation of the heritage of this village into the future. We would also suggest that you consider (if you have not already done so) entering other competitions such as National Spring Clean Week, (run by An Taisce); Green Schools; Golden Mile; IBAL (Irish Business Against Litter); Anti Litter League; Pride of Place (all-Ireland competition); LEADER Environmental Initiatives and any County Council Competitions, as appropriate.

## **The Built Environment:**

The built environment continues to improve in Labasheeda. The Church and School, as usual, were very well presented as indeed was the Garda Barracks. However, it is the improvement in the derelict properties situation that is making the most impact in the village. The works of disguising the properties that to date have not received a new tenant or refurbishment is also a short term solution to this problem. The Barn is an especially unique type of building and with its lovely stone walls and we look forward to seeing this being completed in the near future and becoming a B & B which will bring in visitors to Labasheeda to enjoy the fruits of your labours. Stone walls on the approach roads and throughout the village are a credit to FAS. The painting of the long stretch of wall facing the estuary has made a big difference and creates a continuous theme throughout the village. Unfortunately, the creamery site is still an eyesore. It is good to hear that this has been purchased and hopefully by next year we will see an improvement in same.

## **Landscaping:**

All the landscaping undertaken on the approach roads and throughout the village was looking extremely well on the day of adjudication. Also the standard of hanging baskets was maintained in 2005. Near the housing estate, Mountshannon Amenity Park is nearly reaching completion and will be another worthwhile area in the village. The idea of a live moving area next to the water where plants and shrubs will sway with the sea breezes is imaginative and making best use of all the assets of the village. We look forward to seeing the weeping birch, pampas grass and phormiums in such a setting. The quay area with the three picnic sites was also looking very well and the adjudicator enjoyed a picnic here on a lovely sunny day. Presumably the tennis court in this area is private although steps seem to lead down to the public area. This would be a good additional amenity for visitors to Labasheeda if it were available. Tree planting, which will have a long term beneficial effect on the village, continued in 2005

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

It was good to note that you intend to erect two new information units displaying pictures and information on flowers and birds in local area. These will complement the ones already in place which were being consulted by visitors during our visit. The plan to provide a wild flower garden at the park area is also to be welcomed and we note that you are awaiting seeds from Design By Nature who are Irish wild flower growers. We look forward to seeing this in place next year.

## **Litter Control:**

There was no litter to be seen around the village or on the quay side – well done to all involved. The new bins were noted and also the fact that you plan to have two more of these installed at the community centre and Mountshannon Park. The signs regarding anti litter were also noted and no doubt will help in your campaign. Whilst it is good to hear the large turn out for your litter pick in March it is an indictment of our society to think that 30 bags of rubbish could be collected including a typewriter, computer and fridge. The four tidy town's members monitoring the waste bank are obviously doing a good job and are to be commended.

## **Tidiness:**

Tidiness in the village has improved. The removal of the caravan mentioned in last year's report has taken this very visible obstacle away. The poorest site now is at the old creamery and no doubt this will receive attention from the purchasers in the not too distant future. At the quay the old bath has been removed and the area by the stables looked rather better, although a little more attention to tidiness here would still be welcomed. We would suggest that with three entrances in this area - the

old gate to the right of the stables, the galvanised door into the stables and the gates into the exercise ring receive attention if possible. The first two need to be painted and this would improve them considerably. In regard to the gates into the exercise ring, in fact new gates would be required here as the ones at present in place do not really meet and are tied with bits of string which is not ideal.

### **Residential Areas:**

The residential areas in Labasheeda are well presented and mostly a credit to their owners with a couple of exceptions. Again some private houses in the village are still in a derelict condition and long term solutions needs to be found for these.

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

Road surfaces are,unfortunately, very poor throughout the village and on approach roads. The new lighting mentioned is impressive and it helps the areas where it is situated. Road side banks are nicely trimmed on the approach roads.

### **General Impression:**

If the momentum continues in Labasheeda, which we would feel is going to be the case, then the village has the potential to do well in the Tidy Towns competition in the years ahead and we wish you every success in your endeavours.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

What is most striking to the first time visitor arriving in Labasheeda (incidentally, the original Irish language name is much more attractive) is the poor quality of the roads as well as the unkempt look caused by the poles and wires: compared to these the old creamery site is a self-contained eyesore which only affects its immediate surroundings. (If its future is uncertain, could it not be temporarily screened?) The unpainted gables of several houses is also a negative point: some houses with beautifully painted frontages present stained or tarnished ends to the world. There is also an unusually high incidence of dereliction. Unpainted corrugated iron roofs affect the village disadvantageously too. Against all this, the village does exceptionally well in the presentation of its public buildings (as distinct from some of its private housing), in their enhancement by attractive and well chosen planting, and also in the floral decorations which abound. Really excellent stone walls contribute enormously to the village's success. In the hope that you will progress further up the scale, it is suggested that you take action on the adverse points listed at the start of this paragraph. The increase in marks proposed by the first adjudicator is warmly endorsed. Labasheeda has now reached the upper section of the competition, and is therefore accorded a second opinion by another adjudicator, who found – apart from the discrepancies mentioned – a village of real charm and vitality.