

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Labasheeda** Ref: **79**
County: **Clare** Mark: **249**
Category: **A** Date(s): **27/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	43
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	249

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your excellent application submission and supplemental information to support your entry. The sketch map submitted with the application was one of the best observed by this adjudicator and it made the job of adjudication enjoyable as well as informative.

It is very obvious both from the submission and the work on the ground that the Committee has fostered very good links with Clare County Council, ESB and especially FAS.

Most importantly is the good will that you have created amongst your own community

These links and community goodwill have paid off handsomely as the fruits of everybody's labours were viewed on the day in question.

A model example of an integrated approach to working together.

The Built Environment:

The summary and update on projects undertaken this year were noted by the adjudicator who spent some time inspecting same. All these projects have enhanced the village in a positive manner but the brevity of this report does not allow one to comment on each individually.

The one negative that is not complementary with what has been achieved in this section is the standard of road surfaces and footpaths within the village and on some link roads.

The Committee, if it has not done so already, should lobby local public representatives to get this issue solved.

There is so much to admire in content that it would be impossible to mention all the positives that one encountered except to say that photographic evidence will be invaluable when I visit at a future date.

The Church was in immaculate condition as was the Community Hall across the way, the compact Garda Station and the National School, complete with Green Flag allocation and enhanced by beautiful planted stone beds in front.

This is the type of standard that one encounters in assessing the built environment in Labasheeda so well done to all concerned.

The following observations were made by this adjudicator that could be of benefit in the future. Casey's Public House has a very traditional front and it should be exploited a little more even basic painting would suffice, Commendations to the new owners of what was once a shop in retaining the front in its original style.

It is good to note that the Creamery has been purchased and will be refurbished in time.

Finally it is unusual now days to find a village that has a field within it with a ban of cows relaxing at leisure.

Landscaping:

The work undertaken in this category has been immense.

The Mount Shannon Amenity Park will be worth another visit when fully completed.

The Hazel Hide is a novel and interesting way to observe birds and fits in with the overall landscaping arrangements being put in place although I would be concerned about the prevalence of Johns Worth as this shrub tends to spread too much in time.

The stone tubs at the Quay complemented the whole area, which was very tidy and well kept.

The provision of garden furniture and an information board allows the casual visitor to relax and observe the estuary at ease.

Similar examples are seen around the village and the outskirts especially at the junction for Kilrush and Killimer where one has the stone sign As Gaeilge, a waste bin and indeed a resting seat. Yes people use to rest and reflect in rural Ireland in a different era.

One little criticism, the stone bed at one of the entrances in to the Village, and I cannot recall which one, obscures the Village Name plate so maybe the sign can be raised somewhat.

Other than that this was a very good show in this particular category.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The area is so spoiled for choice of natural habitats for wildlife conservation and preservation that you would be the envy of other similar sized villages.

Indeed you have exploited this to the full by involving the School children. It is very encouraging to see that such young people are enthused by the nature that surrounds them and the presentation by the Wild Life Ranger will pay dividends for the future.

Using the presence of the web to get your message across is to be commended and hopefully your site will have many hits in the future.

Consider the promotion of the marine element of Labsheeda under this category for future years.

Very good work by all concerned to date.

Litter Control:

The committee has been very active in ensuring the message of good litter control is being promoted to the wider community.

Actions such as the placement of new bins in appropriate locations, anti litter signs and weekly clean ups have been successful as there was virtually no litter visible except for some cigarette butts.

Keep up the very good work.

Waste Minimisation:

The proactive approach that the Committee has taken in promoting the message of better waste management is very commendable and could be used as a benchmark for other similar sized communities.

Very few communities would have the get up and go to purchase a mulcher lawn mower at a cost in order to eliminate the need for dumping of grass.

Very worthwhile work being done in the Race Against Waste.

Tidiness:

Much has been done in the area of tidiness since this adjudicator spent time in Labasheeda some years back but there is room for further improvement.

There were a number of weedy side entrances, messy ongoing building work sites and chimney or two with grass growth evident.

It might seem a little churlish to mention these but they stand out as the exceptions rather than the rule.

Again the Committee has some excellent action items planned to keep on top of problems that might arise.

Residential Areas:

The residents of Mount Shannon Estate are to be complemented for the quality of presentation of their immediate area, which will further enhanced when the amenity park is fully complete. This housing development is in a lovely setting looking out to the Shannon Estuary.

Some private dwellings were greatly admired for the simple but effective manner in which they were presented, it takes time and effort to maintain properties and tend gardens so well done to all.

Very novel use of old bicycle and tankard in front of the pleasant house near the Cill O Floinn stone name sign.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main roads into the village were enhanced by stone beds with clean and visible(One exception) name signs. The verges were very tidy and the road surfaces into the village were just about acceptable but not acceptable within the core area.

The idea of identifying towlands with bi lingual stone signs is very innovative if that is the proper term.

General Impression:

The Village of Labasheeda has a very tranquil and inviting appeal to it, a great place to relax and take stock and appreciate the beautiful Shannon Estuary.

The village has made great strides in the competition to date and has the potential to do even better in future years.

The work to date is a credit to the Committee and the local community.

We wish you well in the future.