

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Labasheeda** Ref: **79**
County: **Clare** Mark: **272**
Category: **A** Date(s): **27/06/2008**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2008 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 47 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 36 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 37 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 29 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 33 |
| Waste Minimisation | 20 | 17 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 12 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 24 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 29 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 272 |

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome Labasheeda and thank you, the Labasheeda Community Pride organisation, for your entry to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for your Entry Form and Sketch map.

Thanks to your Committee of ten plus five other people who take the time and effort to attend your regular meetings in addition to other TidyTowns events. Your Committee is doing very worthwhile work in this picturesque village of Labasheeda of less than 200 people.

Your ongoing partnership work with the public and private sector, voluntary and sporting organisations and those that have supported your activities is of obvious benefit to all. This is a vital ingredient in the success of TidyTowns activities. Your sponsorship from over 30 businesses is a credit to all. Your communications strategy is obviously working well. The Website is most informative. The involvement of the local schoolchildren and teachers with TidyTowns on the improvement of the local environment, including the awarding of its second Green Flag status, is a strategy that deserves praise. Your Committee's involvement in TidyTowns competition will continue to be of benefit for the people of Labasheeda.

The TidyTowns Village Map supplied is excellent in its presentation and detail.

The inclusion of four very laudable projects (new website; new brochure; bilingual signage; and new picnic area) in your Three to Five Year Plan quoted in your submission will assist you in the development of key Tidy Town targets and initiatives. Well done on the inclusion of these projects for longer term action by your Committee and others. A recommendation is to consider the preparation of a one/two page Plan incorporating all targets and actions for your Committee. Bullet point format is fine.

I wish you all the best with your planned activities, including the Dan Furey weekend, into the future. Keep up

the excellent initiatives.

The Built Environment:

Labasheeda village possesses a seaside charm and character, which are reflected in many of the individual houses and residential estate. Labasheeda continues to improve and progress over recent years.

Many commercial and public sector premises looked well on the day of my visit. These included: St Kieran's Community Centre; The Old School ; The Catholic Church; The National School; Post Office; The Garda Station. The Eircom phone booth looked fine.

As highlighted previously the Old Creamery Building is in a state of neglect and requires refurbishment.

The cosmetic work on disused and derelict buildings is difficult and deserves credit. Well done on all these efforts.

Landscaping:

The landscaped areas of Labasheeda are excellent with stone walls, staked trees, and stone flowerbeds, in addition to some appropriate seating. This adjudicator was impressed with the great work on Mountshannon Park. The excellent achievement of completing the Park in 2007 is continued into the current year with ongoing good work. Well done to all involved including Fas.

The commercial and residential premises in the village are mainly well landscaped including some displays of hanging flower baskets and other flower containers. The hanging baskets along the street are a feature. Care and attention is obvious throughout the village in all aspects of landscaping

The landscaping at St Kierans is attractive with the Commemoration Stone on the 2003 visit of President McAleese a lovely feature. As is the Interpretative Panel on the history of St. Kierans and Birdlife in the area.

Labasheeda Quay continues to be an excellent centre of attraction for visitors, the area looked well with its good signage, and nice landscaping . The Interpretative Panel on the Boating Tradition, the Birdlife of the area and the Fish Species in the Shannon is very good. I liked the warning sign for Sunburn- I hope we get to heed it in better weather!

The area around the Village Pump is attractive.

The Failte go Leaba Sioda stone sign is excellent and also the Interpretative Panel on Leaba Sioda-The Bed of Silk.

Well done to all involved in the various locations for good landscaping throughout the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Labasheeda is fortunate that it is situated on a beautiful quiet rural and waterside location. Every attempt should be made to take advantage of this location. Could further research be undertaken into a Wildlife Habitat Survey to further establish what habitats and wildlife may exist in the area?

I noted three excellent Interpretative Panels on Labasheeda a number of which all focussed on the wildlife of the area. Well done to all. The promotion of Labasheeda wildlife and natural amenities on the website is innovative

The involvement of the school children in appropriate projects such as the visit of the Wildlife Ranger is a worthwhile consideration for teachers and the Committee.

Litter Control:

The Village of Labasheeda was mainly litter free on the day of my visit and obviously the work of Tidy Towns Committee is paying dividends. Litter Free Signs are prominent in the area. Well Done

Waste Minimisation:

The purpose of this category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the local community to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Projects could include community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during clean-up events.

The strategy of working with the National School in its award of its second Green Flag status is excellent. Well done to all involved. The Green Flag stood proud on its flagpole at the School.

The purchase by members of the community of 21 composting bins for domestic use is to be applauded. Well done to all involved.

The use of the mulcher mower on grass is innovative. Also the Bottle/can Recycling Bank at the GAA pitch and its monitoring by the Committee is excellent strategy.

Tidiness:

Labasheeda looked neat and tidy on the day of my visit. As stated above the treatment of the old derelict cottages is a difficult task.

The condition of some road surfaces was disappointing and looked untidy.

Residential Areas:

The residential areas of Labasheeda looked well on my visit, with nice landscaping and appropriate tree planting. The common grassed area was well maintained. The older houses throughout the village are mainly well presented. Also the hanging flower baskets are excellent throughout the village. All the improvements outlined in your submission are worthwhile, including the construction of new houses, and the painting and renovation of existing homes.

The footpath and the stone wall leading to Mountshannon Estate are an obvious improvement and the benefits are very evident.

Congratulations to all concerned on the upkeep of their residential areas throughout the area.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach road surface to the village from the Mountshannon Estate is in need of improvement. The stone walls and footpath are in good order however. The landscaped areas at Mountshannon Park and those areas closer to the village and at the Quay side continue to look very well. The stone signs (bilingual noted) at the access roads were impressive. The use of very appropriate stone signs for the various Townlands (e.g. Cill O Finn- Killofin) in Labasheeda and its hinterland is to be applauded.

Well done to all concerned.

General Impression:

My visit to Labasheeda was like a step back in time, so quiet, a beautiful place, and very enjoyable. The pride that the people of Labasheeda have for their home village is to be applauded. It really is a lovely village with much natural beauty within and close by the village. It's important for the Committee and all involved to maintain Labasheeda's natural and built beauty for the benefit of locals and visitors alike.

The ongoing co-operation between the public, and others, and the TidyTowns Committee is evident.

Congratulations on your 2008 entry to TidyTowns Competition and good luck for the future.