

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Labbamologga** Ref: **1922**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **194**
Category: **A** Date(s): **30/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	20
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	194

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the filled up entry form and map of Labbamologga. I note you have 20 committee members and you have great enthusiasm when these people give up so much of their spare time to attend committee meetings and I can well understand that you are getting a lot more volunteers for your various undertakings. You are getting support from Ballyhoura Fáilte and Cork County Council. You are getting your message across to the local community. It is positive to engage with the schools. We are pleased that you got satisfaction from your first entrance to the Tidy Towns Competition last year. All of this means you have a good overall approach to the competition.

The Built Environment:

This section, as you know, deals with public building for the most part. But there is no shop, school, pub or church in your designated area. We are now mainly dealing with a restored old farm house and while the function of the building is now obviously different from its original use it has retained its original identity. The hob, stone fireplace and bellows are distinguishing features. The barn is well developed and now is a great indoor /outdoor facility. The timber structures serve the purpose for which they were put in place serving the soccer pitch and tennis courts.

Landscaping:

There is a natural unspoilt landscape here that requires little intervention only maintenance of planted areas and green areas. The historical graveyard is maintained in a neat and tidy fashion and I know that you have a most enthusiastic community, but could I, with respect, urge caution in relation to doing any work in this graveyard where historic ruins are preserved very well.

I note you intend to plant more deciduous trees this autumn and I suggest you get a copy of two books that could give you some ideas. Paddy Madden's book *The School Garden – what to and when to do* plus *OUR*

TREES ISBN 0-9518612-5-5 and I will not be surprised to find that you will be propagating your own tree stock in the near future.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It could be fantastic to develop the river walk, and this could be an arduous task but the rewards are obvious. I note you have left natural areas untouched above the community centre. There is an abundance of wildlife in this mainly unspoilt area of countryside. I hope the cuckoo pays a visit and did you hear a corncrake in the recent past? You could enlist the assistance of some people that are interested in outdoor pursuits to assist you with this section, and I suspect there are many people that could help you in the locality. Sensitive managed farmland and hedgerows will greatly benefit wildlife. I was interested to learn in another location that there is evidence that one of the reasons for the decline in Barn Owls is the use of modern rat poisons which are 100 – 1000 times more toxic than warfarin and other first-generation compounds that were used previously.

Litter Control:

I note you have purchased two bins – one recycling and you signed a contract with waste disposal and recycling company.

Waste Minimisation:

There is a good effort made to treat the waste in a responsible way by sorting waste in recyclable and non-recyclable bins. This is a good idea to appoint a person to go to the bottle bank at Tesco in Mitchelstown each week. You could encourage the householders to consider the composting of suitable material at their own homes, and maybe you could lead the way by setting off a small area at the community centre to do composting in a pilot manner.

Tidiness:

In many ways it is easy to keep this small area tidy, but then only small items out of place here make a disproportionate impact. The ditches and walls are well presented. We all must be aware of the restrictions in place for the cutting of hedges while our birds are nesting.

Residential Areas:

There is an array of well-kept houses that are very well maintained with attractive displays of lawns, trees, shrubs and flowers around the locality. There are also some sturdy farm dwellings that have their own particular charm.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Firstly congratulations for erecting the new signposts and this saved me from looking for the location. Last year's adjudicator mentioned the dangerous bumps on the Ballylanders road, and I fully agree with his remarks. The local people perhaps are aware of the condition of this road and take remedial action, but strangers like myself could get into difficulties as the road is quite dangerous. Now that you are obviously attracting many more outsiders to Labbamologga you could inform the County Council engineer of the concerns about this road, and this is of the utmost importance. I loved the small stone bridge.

General Impression:

I was lucky to meet Declan Masterson who gave me a lot of information about the area and your activities. He also gave me a copy of THE T.O Park Outreach Programme and we find that you are doing absolutely wonderful work in this community centre. You have set a high standard for other communities to follow. Thank you very much for entering the competition and thereby educating us on what can be achieved by leadership, learning and enthusiasm.