

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Labasheeda** Ref: **79**  
County: **Clare** Mark: **278**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **01/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	47
The Built Environment	50	37
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	17
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>278</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

We are delighted to welcome Labasheeda once again to the Tidy Towns Competition. Thanks to Labasheeda Community Pride group for submitting the completed entry form together with the very helpful sketch map. It is good to note that you have managed to retain an active committee of 10 members with the assistance of 5 additional volunteers to assist in the work. Your organisation seems to be very active with its fortnightly meetings in Spring and Summer and monthly meetings at other times of the year. The availability of funding for projects is crucial so you have done well over the past 5 years to obtain sponsorship from so many businesses.

Co-operation with other bodies can be very productive therefore your involvements with FÁS, the ESB, Clare County Council and the HSE, as well as local religious, community and sporting bodies, are very appropriate.

Your use of Parish Newsletters, local press, posters and a website to contact the wider community are very suitable means of achieving the objective. The local school pupils and staff, with their proven track record in achieving the Green Flag, should prove valuable partners in your Tidy Towns endeavours and it is good that you have been involving them.

As mentioned in last year's report, we note the projects included in your Three to Five Year Plan and suggest that you might include a brief update with next year's entry, giving a progress report on the projects and a timeframe for completion where work is still outstanding.

It is good to know that the Dan Furey Weekend will be taking place again next September and we hope it will prove a very enjoyable and sociable occasion for all. Congratulations on raising in excess of €9,000 for charity through the annual 10k walk, that was quite an achievement.

We wish all in Labasheeda many more achievements with your Tidy Towns projects in the future.

### **The Built Environment:**

We noted the Irish stone sign (Failte go Leaba Sioda) and use of the stone bilingual townland signs at various locations, well done.

Labasheeda is a very appealing village in a glorious coastal setting and it has obviously benefited from the enthusiasm and commitment of its residents. Luckily, to date, the village has not suffered from over-development and seems to have successfully retained its distinctiveness.

Premises which were admired during our visit included St Kieran's Church and the Community Centre; the immaculately presented National School; the lovely Old National School (now a private residence); the Health Centre and Casey's Pub.

It was encouraging to see that the Old Creamery Building had been given a temporary paint treatment and hopefully will be redeveloped in the near future. Good work.

### **Landscaping:**

There were many fine examples of colourful and appropriate landscaping in all areas of the town including the lovely stone flowerbeds at The Bed of Silk interpretative panel and the raised green verges on the roadside near the Upper Road with well staked young trees and colourful flowerbeds. Bench seats accompanied by planted containers were very appealing and the myriad of hanging baskets and window boxes further enhanced the vista.

The floral presentation and commemorative plaque at St Kieran's Community Centre, marking the visit of President McAleese in 2003, was inspiring. The Millennium Stone and landscaping at St Kieran's Church was also well presented.

Mountshannon Park was a fine example of what can be achieved by organisations working together, in this case the local community and FÁS. Its superb tiered flowerbeds, shrubberies and excellent footpaths formed a beautiful picture, well done to all involved.

The Quay was a very inviting amenity with neatly cut grassed areas, well built stone wall with railings, shrubberies and picnic facilities. All signs were in good condition and the display panels were very informative.

Congratulations to all the businesses and home owners in the village who went to great lengths to ensure that Labasheeda was well dressed for the appreciation of its residents and visitors.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The use of the Labasheeda website and information display boards to promote information on the local wildlife is commendable. We are sure the new information unit and viewing window near the Willow Bird Hide will provide both adults and children with an excellent insight into the various resident bird species, well done. Hopefully the planned presentation by the Wildlife Ranger will give you plenty of recommendations and ideas for further projects.

### **Litter Control:**

Well done to everyone involved in the annual litter pick, the ongoing weekly litter picks and the regular emptying of litter bins, all of which seem to be very effective. During our visit the village was almost litter free although we did spot a couple of items in the Quay area. We noticed the anti litter signs in several locations including the new sign at Mountshannon Park.

It is important to note that this category is not just marked on the absence of litter during an inspection but it also includes the planning process for litter control. Additional marks can be achieved by submitting a litter control plan as part of the entry submission.

**Waste Minimisation:**

We commend your composting projects – helping to obtain composting bins for purchase by members of the community and circulating information on composting. The use of mulchers to eliminate the need to dump grass cuttings is an excellent way to reduce waste.

The Recycling Bank at the GAA grounds was very clean and tidy during our visit. Perhaps some appropriate signage in the area would be appropriate. Your proposed plans, including the recycling of bottles and cans from the Community Centre and encouraging double sided photocopying, are further worthwhile initiatives.

It was encouraging to see the Green Flag proudly displayed outside the National School. Congratulations to all who must have worked extremely hard to achieve what we understand is their 2nd Green Flag, well done.

**Tidiness:**

It was good to see that some derelict properties had been given temporary facelifts, including the old Creamery building which had been painted and an attractive mural at a property on the main street. It was also encouraging to see renovation work being undertaken at several locations. However, torn net curtains in a couple of premises detracted from the view.

The public lighting on the Quay Road was very impressive with wires placed underground. You might consider lobbying for the wires on the Main Street to be moved underground as a future project.

Boundary walls at several locations throughout the village were very well painted, particularly the freshly painted white wall with grey capping outside the Church and the lovely wall at the National School.

We drove down to Kilkerrin/Battery Point but were disappointed in the presentation of the information panel which needed to be cleaned. The little stone flowerbeds at the base of the display panel would benefit from some fresh planting and we hope that the proposed plans to improve facilities in this area will proceed shortly.

**Residential Areas:**

There were some really attractive cottages and houses throughout the village, a blend of old and new giving Labasheeda a wide appeal. Window boxes and hanging baskets, together with some lovely landscaped gardens and generally well maintained houses throughout the village are witness to the commitment of the residents in Labasheeda

Mountshannon Estate was a credit to its community with well painted houses and very neat gardens. The homes were located in a magnificent setting, overlooking the wonderful Park and the Shoreline and linked to the rest of the village via the new pavement and stone wall, superb!

The standard of residential properties was a credit to the owners and the community of Labasheeda, well done.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Your co-operation with the County Council has resulted in some very good work on the pavements in the village and on the bridge repairs at Killofin. We admired the lovely stone walled entrance leading down to Killofin Cemetery and the cemetery itself was impressive.

The approach roads and the road leading to the Quay were in reasonable condition and were clean. We admired the stone townland signs throughout the area

Signage around the town was appropriate and generally in good condition but a Post Office sign at the Ennis/Kilrush junction had fallen off its bracket and needed to be refitted. We admired the bilingual stone signs on the main access routes.

**General Impression:**

Congratulations on submitting a very balanced and informative entry to the 2009 Tidy Towns competition. Your work to date has certainly succeeded in retaining the traditional charm of the village while embracing some new developments.

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit and hope to have many future opportunities to appreciate your enchanting village again and to witness further examples of the excellent work being undertaken by your very aptly named Labasheeda Community Pride group and the wider community.