

An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 2, 2018

Mullingar: Overall 2018 result: 24th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms

A good result for Mullingar after an absence from the League, with just under half of the sites surveyed getting the top litter grade with many just missing out – e.g. Fairgreen Shopping Centre, Public car park adjacent to County Buildings and Castle Street. By far the most heavily littered site in Mullingar was the Recycle Facility adjacent to County Buildings – it wasn't just littered but subject to dumping.

N4 Dublin Road: Grade A. This road was excellent with regard to overall presentation and litter. Road surface, signage and markings were in very good order and grass verges had been recently cut.

Pearse Street and Oliver Plunkett Street: Grade A. The overall presentation of this streetscape was good but there were significant chewing gum and cigarette butts throughout – the level of these was such that it could drop down a litter grade if not addressed.

Mullingar Business Park – Zone C: Grade B. Some parts of this site were good with regard to litter and the road / pavement surface were fresh. . Most of the litter lay in the kerbs and at the base of the planting, beneath a low wall. Much of the litter at this site was food related – coffee cups, plastic bottles, cans and sweet papers.

Public Car Park adjacent to County Buildings & Library: Grade B+. This is an extensive site and overall much of the area surveyed was quite good with regard to litter. However, there were noticeable items at the car park walls – mostly sweet papers and cans, with chewing gum and cigarette butts more widespread.

Recycle Facility adjacent to County Buildings: Grade C. Overall, the impression at this small facility was an untidy one. There was some dumping evident at the front of the units and the area to the rear was littered.

Fairgreen Shopping Centre: Grade B+. There were some parts of this shopping centre which presented much better than others. The paving and outdoor seating area were very fresh and clear of litter and yet other aspects appeared less fresh. Some litter was found on the kerbs and in the hedges.

O'Growney Drive: Grade A. There was a complete absence of litter throughout this residential area. The environment was enhanced by some nice paving and colourful plant boxes. Grasslands had been recently cut.

Castle Street: Grade B+. Castle Street just missed getting the top litter grade. Cigarette related litter, sweet wrappers and chewing gum were present. A decommissioned telephone box could well become a magnet for litter. Some street signage was in poor condition. Paving was in very good order and much of the remainder of the street was fine.

Carey Bridge and Canal Walk: Grade B. A moderately littered site with a variety of food related litter e.g. plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers, cans and sweet papers. Much of the litter lay at the edge of the water and along the pathway.

N4 Mullingar – Longford Connecting Road: Grade A. The overall impression created along this route was an excellent one with regard to litter and overall presentation.