**Monaghan: Joint 22nd out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.**

**A strong performance by Monaghan, let down by two heavily littered sites. Some of the particularly good sites included Monaghan Leisure Centre, Dublin Street and Church Square and Environs – the latter has been wonderfully presented with the fine historic buildings taking centre stage. The two most heavily littered sites were also poor in the previous IBAL survey – the first of these is a miscellaneous site beside Monaghan Town Library and the second is the Bottle and Clothing Bank at the Long Stay Car Park. Both of these need to be addressed to prevent further deterioration.**

**Dublin Street: Grade A.** The overall impression along Dublin Street was a very positive one. The paving was attractive and added a freshness to the street. There were several vacant / unoccupied properties, some of which had ‘façade painting’ which took the away the bare look. There were plenty of colourful hanging baskets and plant boxes. At the bottom of the street there was a substantial planter box.

**Bottle and Clothing Bank at Long Stay Car Park: Grade C.** This facility was characterised by items stuffed between almost all the bin units, broken glass on the ground and a mattress to the rear. There was little change in the litter situation since the previous survey.

**Monaghan Leisure Centre: Grade A.** The grounds and general environs of Monaghan Leisure Centre were in excellent order. Not only was it spotless throughout but the whole area was exceptionally well presented and maintained. Bicycle parking, car park, picnic tables, tennis courts and planted areas were completely clear of litter.

**Miscellaneous Site beside Monaghan Town Library: Grade C.** The area immediately surrounding Monaghan Town Library was fine. The site beside the Library was highlighted in previous survey and there has been little change since then. The weeds were 10ft high and it was covered with heavy accumulations of litter. Where does responsibility for this lie?

**Shopping Centre / Town Centre Car Park: Grade B.** An extensive area which stretches from Church Square all the way to Broad Road. The majority of the car park was generally in good order and quite clean. However, the green ESB box within the car park was in a very poor stage – there were heavy levels of food related litter all around. This took away from an otherwise top ranking site.

**Church Square and Environs: Grade A.** This was an excellent site. The wonderful buildings certainlytake centre stage with the paving, street lights, visitor information notices, seating etc. all very much in keeping with the ‘olde’ style. There was a complete absence of litter throughout.

**Peter’s Lake: Grade A.** Overall, this site was deserving of a Grade A. All aspects of the area surveyed were in good order and well maintained e.g. seating, bins, visitor information notices, PE equipment, grass, shrubbery and tree planting.

**R162 / R188 Cootehill Approach Road: Grade A.** There was no litter reported along this road leading into Monaghan. The junction with the corner site of Dunnes Stores had plenty of colourful flower planting.

**Dublin Road Approach: Grade A.** An excellent main route into Monaghan. Road surface / signage / markings were in very good order and the overall appearance was a very fresh one.

**Cavan – Monaghan Connecting Road: Grade A.** The road surface / signage /markings etc. were in very good order - there was an absence of litter throughout.