

## An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 1, 2018

**Ballinasloe: 23<sup>rd</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.**

An excellent return to the league for Ballinasloe, which has improved on past results. Some of the top ranking sites deserve a special mention e.g. The Famine Remembrance Park – not only was it a top ranking site with regard to litter but the overall presentation and maintenance of this park environment was excellent. The residential area of Kilgrave Park was also in very good order with regard to litter and overall presentation. Other top ranking sites included Athenry Approach Road and M6 to Exit 14 – from Athlone. By far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Ballinasloe was the Main Street - the overall impression was of an untidy and poorly maintained environment with heavy accumulations of litter. It was one of only a handful of Main Streets to score so poorly in this survey.

**M6 to Exit 14 - from Athlone: Grade A.** The overall impression created along this route was an excellent one. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good condition and there was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

**Athenry Approach Road: Grade A.** Much of this road into Ballinasloe was lined with mature trees and shrubbery, all very lush and green. The footpath along one side was particularly fresh in appearance. There didn't appear to be any visible litter.

**Main Street: Grade C.** It is quite unusual in the IBAL litter survey to see a Main Street Grade C. The colourful visitor information signage was in good condition and fresh in appearance. This was in contrast to much of the rest of the street where the overall impression was an untidy and poorly maintained one. Some of the buildings were quite poorly presented and many of the street bins were in poor condition. There were litter accumulations (e.g. behind blue railings) as well as pronounced levels along the street and at steps leading to car parking area. Many of the adjoining laneways were equally heavily littered.

**Society Street: Grade A.** Some of the street bins along Society Street were in much better condition than Main Street. There was a virtual absence of litter along this shopping street where the overall presentation of shops and buildings was better than the Main Street.

**Famine Remembrance Park: Grade A.** Not only was this site a top ranking site with regard to litter but the overall presentation and maintenance of this park environment was excellent - a fitting tribute for any memorial.

**Ballinasloe Leisure Centre: Grade A.** The entrance to the leisure centre building and the car park were generally clean and tidy. The overall impression created here was of a well presented and maintained environment.

**Ballinasloe Harbour: Grade B.** The overall environment is very well presented with neatly cut grass, visitor information notice, seating etc. This site just missed getting the top litter grade - food related litter took away from an otherwise excellent site.

**Kilgrave Park: Grade A.** A clean and tidy impression was created at this residential estate. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed. Grasslands and planting were in good order

**Sli na Habhainn West Car Park: Grade A.** There was a virtual absence of litter in this well presented and maintained car park. The car park surface, signage, markings and pavement were in very good condition. There was a nice use of shrubs and floral arrangements.

**Recycle Facility at Sli N Habhainn West Car Park: Grade A.** All appeared in good order at this freshly presented facility. Bin units and signage were in good condition and the overall impression was a positive one.

**M6 Connecting Road from Galway: Grade B.** This was a mixed site with regard to litter. It would have got the top ranking grade if it wasn't for the continuous, sporadic trail of litter items along the passenger side of the motorway in the direction between Galway and Ballinasloe. This took away from the Ballinasloe to Galway direction which was much cleaner. The overall presentation of the motorway was excellent.