

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

**Castlebar: 20<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.**

**A very good result for Castlebar, consolidating its improvement of last year. This time around there were six top ranking sites, with the remainder moderately littered. There were no seriously littered sites. Very good sites included Lough Lannagh Park and Lough Lannagh Community Centre – these areas were not just good with regard to litter but also very well presented and maintained e.g. colourful planting, clear and clean signage etc. The Recycle Facility at Dunnes Stores, while still littered, was much improved on previous surveys**

**Lough Lannagh Community Centre: Grade A.** The grounds of this community centre were attractively landscaped and well maintained. It was a welcoming environment with plenty of colourful planting. It was spotless throughout. Clearly it is a very well cared for and respected environment.

**Lough Lannagh Park: Grade A.** This is a lovely natural environment, incorporating a small lake and stream with walking trail and car park area. There was plenty of clear and clean signage relating to dumping, dog fouling and dogs on site. The natural environment was well maintained, with a dedicated area 'Managed for Wildlife'. All was in very good order and clear of litter.

**Market Square to Roundabout at Argos: Grade B.** The overall impression of this street was a somewhat littered one with a variety of food related litter and cigarette butts present. Some of the litter had become lodged in the protective tree bases. The seating, paving, bins and bollards were in good order.

**Church of Holy Rosary: Grade A.** (Chapel Street) The grounds of the church have been carefully maintained and the overall impression was of a fresh and clean environment. There was a virtual absence of litter in the area surveyed. All was in excellent order throughout.

**De La Salle School – St. Patrick's: Grade A.** The built environment was in good order with paving / outdoor stairwell / railings etc. fresh in appearance and the low lying shrubbery was well maintained. Overall, this was a very clean and tidy area.

**Rathbawn Road: Grade A.** The area surveyed along this residential road was from the town centre to Rathbawn Drive. The presentation of this road was a good one with the individual gardens also in good order. There was a virtual absence of litter in the survey area.

**Recycle Bank at Dunnes Stores: Grade B.** It was noted that this recycle facility was in better much order than previous IBAL surveys. The recycle units were new looking and very fresh in appearance. There was no litter on the ground in front of the units but plenty of users have discarded their disused plastic bags between the units.

**Turlough Road: Grade B.** This was a mixed road in terms of presentation and appearance. Much of it was in good order, especially the residential stretch, but there were some isolated areas which were quite poor, in a considerable state of neglect. These areas didn't harbour the typical food related litter but stray pieces of steel and plastic – some of these sites were commercial (e.g. former garage site) and some were residential. Individually these areas need to be addressed to prevent further deterioration.

**Pontoon Approach Road: Grade A.** The main stretch of road was in good order with regard to presentation and litter. There were two derelict sites along this road which could easily become magnets for litter (and worse). The road surface, signage and markings were in good condition.

**N84 Castlebar to Galway Road (via Headford): Grade B.** The overall impression created along this road was of a very definite litter presence – as well as a variety of food related litter there was also some cardboard.