

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

**Cavan: 18<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.**

The approach routes in Cavan were top ranking, creating a positive first impression of the town. These roads set the tone for what was a very well presented and maintained town environment. With so many other top ranking sites within the town, a couple deserve a special mention – Con Smith Park (a lovely facility), the River Walk and the Main Street – these were very well presented and maintained. The only poor sites within Cavan were the two 'Bring Banks' – at the Multi Storey Car Park and the Clothing Bank at Aldi – clearly there is room for improvement in terms of maintenance and cleaning at both.

**R212 Approach: Grade A.** (from Maxol Station) A very positive impression is created coming into Cavan along this route. Road surface / signage / markings were very good. Cycle path was in good condition. There was plenty of colourful planting on the right hand side, closer to the town. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

**Cavan Retail Park: Grade A.** This was an excellent site. The paving area directly outside the shops was spotless. The car park area and low lying shrubbery were in very good order.

**Main Street: Grade A.** A long shopping street with attractive paving either side of the road. Plant boxes, seating, bins etc. were in good order. The town square open area was exceptionally fresh in appearance. Overall, the Main Street scored very well with regard to litter.

**'Bring Centre' at Multi Storey Car Park: Grade C.** The units for clothing, bottles and cans were generally in good order - clean and signage relating to usage was intact. Two of the can units were overflowing with surplus cans blowing about. A bag had been left at the base of the bins. However, it was the area between and behind the recycle units which brought down the grade to a Grade C status. A more thorough approach to cleaning and maintenance is required to address this.

**Cavan Bus Station: Grade A.** The entrance to the bus station and immediate environs were in good order. The exterior waiting area was well served by litter bins and signage relating to the station was clear and clean.

**Con Smith Park: Grade A.** This park environment had wonderful sculptures throughout. It runs parallel to a busy road and while not a 'manicured' environment it was an oasis of calm. The children's playground, skate park and PE equipment were in very good condition. A recent addition was the 'Alzheimer Friendly Plaque'. A stream runs through the park. Overall, there was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

**Riverwalk: Grade A.** The area surveyed was from the Bridge beside Cavan Bus Station to a series of houses. The black railings, 'olde' style street lamps and flower boxes presented well. Further along there were several landscaped areas with rockery and seating. The river appeared to be clear of litter. Strimming had recently taken place along the riverbank. Overall, the site presented very well with a virtual absence of litter.

**Kingspan Breffnie Park: Grade A.** (area outside the stadium was surveyed) The exterior and approaches surrounding the GAA stadium were in very good order. Grass cutting / strimming had recently taken place in the immediate vicinity. There didn't appear to be any visible litter- clearly it is a very well managed environment.

**Clothing Bank at Aldi: Grade C.** A series of plastic bags had been dumped on the ground, the contents of which were strewn about. This wasn't just clothing for the Clothing Bank but household waste.

**Approach from Dublin R212: Grade A.** An excellent road in terms of layout and presentation – road surface, signage and markings were in very good condition. It was fresh in appearance with no visible litter.

**Monaghan – Cavan Link Road: Grade A.** (ROI only) A lush and green route, along which there didn't appear to be any obvious litter. A rural road which was maintained accordingly.