

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

Gorey: 27th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

A good showing for Gorey after an absence from the League for several years. The overall impression was of a vibrant and well presented town. The new Civic Centre (Courthouse / Library / HSE building etc.) was very fresh in appearance. It was also noted that some of the roundabouts on the approach to the town were sponsored by various businesses with abundant and colourful planting – this creates a very welcoming impression. The Main Street was lined with attractive paving and plenty of planter boxes throughout. The one litter hotspot within Gorey was the Sport and Leisure Centre – where does responsibility for this site lie?

R772 Approach from M11: Grade A. The colourful planting at the roundabout (Sponsored by Green Berry Shop) was a very welcoming feature. Along the route the walking / cycling path was in good order. All other aspects of the road presented well.

R741 Approach from Wexford: Grade A. A clean and well presented road into Gorey with lush vegetation lining either side of the road. The colourful flowering at the roundabout (at turnoff for the shopping centre) was a lovely feature.

Main Street: Grade A. The overall impression created walking along the Main Street in Gorey was a positive one with lovely paving throughout. There were plenty of ornamental trees and some large, tiered planter boxes throughout. Cigarette butt units were few and far between and there were remarkably few butts considering dearth of collection units. There was signage re: disposal of dog fouling – ‘Any bag will do’.

Gorey Civic Centre: Grade A. A brand new development which was in pristine condition with regard to overall presentation and litter. The facility incorporates outdoor PE equipment / Court House / Library / HSE Office etc. with a lovely planted area to the front. Seating and paving were very attractive. All aspects of the area surveyed were in excellent order. There was a virtual absence of litter but cigarette butts were obvious outside the Court House.

Gorey Town Park: Grade A. The pedestrian entrance along a narrow pathway (adjacent to the 'showground') doesn't create a positive first impression of Gorey Town Park - it is heavily weeded / some graffiti / dog fouling. However, once within the park itself it was all in very good order and it was well maintained. Skateboard park / playground were in very good condition – so too were the signage and seating and general planted areas. Grass area was also clear of litter. A 'Wall of Graffiti' was also a feature. One bin was rather old and rusty.

Bottle Bank at SuperValu: Grade B. A small bottle bank facility in the car park of SuperValu. There was broken glass on the ground and other items trapped beneath shopping trolleys right beside the bottle bank.. Some of the bins were grubby in appearance. Generally, this facility created a poor impression overall.

Aldi Car Park: Grade B. This area was fresh in appearance and very well presented. On first impression it seemed good with regard to litter. Closer inspection revealed a myriad of food related items in the low lying shrubbery surrounding the car park. A more thorough approach to cleaning would result in an excellent site.

IDA Gorey: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along the main thoroughfare of the industrial estate. The An Post area to the rear was fresh in appearance.

Gorey Sports and Leisure Centre: Grade D. A wide variety of activities appear to take place at this site - with so many activities including Scouts, Brownies, Tennis, etc. where does the responsibility for the maintenance of this site lie?. The overall presentation was generally quite poor with plenty of potholes and weeds along the driveway. However, it was the heavy accumulations of litter at the

base of the trees behind the buildings which brought down the overall grade - also evidence of burning at this site.

N11 / M11 Bray – Gorey Link Road: Grade A. Much of this route runs through Co Wicklow with the last stretch in Co Wexford. The overall impression created along this road was excellent. Large sections of the road were very new and very fresh. An added feature were the sculptures, within both local authority areas.