

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

Longford: 5th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

Longford has maintained its high ranking of recent years. The approach roads into the town were very good and this positive impression was sustained for the majority of the remaining sites which were surveyed. Particularly good top ranking sites included St. Mel's Cathedral and Environs, New Street and Dunnes Stores Car Park – these areas were not just good with regard to litter but were very well presented and maintained.

New Street: Grade A. New Street presented very well with the paving creating a fresh appearance. The abundant hanging baskets were full of colour and the street is well served by litter bins. There was an absence of visible litter throughout.

Teffia Park and Pauric Colum Heights: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout this residential area. The large grass area was in good order with regard to litter. At the entrance to Teffia Park there were Dog Fouling and 'Keep your Dogs on a Lead' signs.

The Courtyard and Environs: Grade B. The paving, bollards, street lamps, hanging baskets were all well presented and in good order. There was some occasional food and alcohol related litter but what really brought down the litter grade was the high level of cigarette butts – there were several separate accumulations of same throughout.

Public Car Park on junction of Dublin Road and Major's Well Road: Grade A. A Longford Town Council Pay and Display Car Park. The overall impression was of a fresh and clean car park with road surface in very good condition. There was a definite cigarette butt presence and if not quickly addressed this could result in a lower litter grade.

Ballymahon Street and Main Street: Grade B. Some parts of this long stretch of road were clear of litter but the majority of the area surveyed was moderately littered with a wide variety of food related litter scattered about. Litter had also been stuffed into a broken cigarette butt unit. Other parts of the street presented very well with attractive paving, colourful planting and well presented visitor information notice.

St. Mel's Cathedral Environs: Grade A. This was an excellent site. The area to the front and surrounding St Mel's Cathedral was not only in pristine condition but there was a complete absence of litter throughout. Bicycle parking, paving, railings, lighting etc. were all in excellent condition. This site is a credit to the users and those responsible for its maintenance.

Dunnes Stores: Grade A. The car park surface, signage and markings were in excellent order and the surrounding low lying planting presented well. The grass area had recently been cut. The bottle bank within the car park was generally quite tidy and the signage relating to same was clear and clean.

Leo Casey Roundabout to Red Cow Roundabout: Grade A. Travelling along this road created a very positive first impression of Longford. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good condition.

N4 and Dublin Road Approach Road: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along this route – care needs to be taken around the strawberry vendor. The grass verges were well attended and road surface, signage and markings were excellent.

N63 Roscommon – Longford Connecting Road: Grade A. The overall impression created travelling along this road was excellent. The grass verges were well maintained.