

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

Monaghan: 9th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

A further improvement for Monaghan which nets it a top ten position in the rankings. There were six top ranking sites in the town and the remainder were moderately littered. There were no seriously littered sites. Some of the very good top ranking sites included the town centre 'The Diamond' and the residential area of Woodlawn – these weren't just good with regard to litter but were very well presented and maintained.

Monaghan Shopping Centre: Grade A. The large car park area of Monaghan Shopping Centre was in excellent condition. The car park surface, markings and signage were in good order and there was good use of tree planting and colourful flowering throughout.

Dublin Street: Grade B+. Much of Dublin Street was in good order with attractive paving throughout. However, the prevalence of cigarette butts and chewing gum (especially outside some premises) and some vacant properties brought down the overall grade.

The Diamond: Grade A. The Diamond is a lovely town centre which has been attractively landscaped and presented. The paving, planting, street furniture etc. were all in excellent order and the whole area creates a very positive impression. The adjoining Diamond Centre was much improved on previous surveys. There was a humorous 'Litter Awareness' sign: 'Gone with the Bins - Don't end up Scarlet with a €150 Litter Fine'.

Long Stay Car Park (New Road): Grade A. This car park was fine with regard to litter. The car park surface was somewhat uneven in places and the signage was quite old.

Woodlawn: Grade A. This residential area was excellently presented and completely clear of litter throughout the whole area surveyed. All aspects were fresh and clean – road surface, paving and communal grass area.

R186 Scotstown Approach Road: Grade A. The overall impression created along this road was good, with a virtual absence of litter. It was generally tidy and well attended.

N54 Approach: Grade A. This approach route into Monaghan town created a very positive first impression of the town. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order e.g. road surface, markings and signage. Check photo for 'Keep Monaghan Tidy' signage.

Recycle Centre at Long Stay Car Park: Grade B. The overall impression of this recycle facility was an untidy one. The area surrounding the pink charity clothing recycle bins was fine but the area between and behind the remainder of the bins was definitely littered. A more thorough approach to emptying and cleaning is required to prevent any further build-up.

Ulster Canal Greenway and Park: Grade B+. Overall, a good impression is created along this pathway. Being in a 'natural setting' it has been sensitively maintained and generally quite well respected. The pathway was clear of litter but the adjacent stream harboured some litter, mostly alcohol related.

N3 / N54 Cavan – Monaghan Connecting Road: Grade B+. This road suffers from a steady trickle of litter (plastic bottles) along the passenger side as you leave Monaghan. The Cavan side of the site was litter free. The grass verges on both sides of the road were very well maintained.