

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

Mullingar: 11th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

A commendable showing from Mullingar after an absence from the League. There were eight top ranking sites, examples were the residential area of Oaklawns, Mount Street and Harbour Place. These areas were not just clear of litter but also very well presented and maintained. Mullingar Town Park was freshly presented and a colourful planter box at the entrance creates a welcoming impression. While Oliver Plunkett Street also got the top litter grade, it was noted that the litter bins were very grubby. The Recycle Facility at Blackhall Street Car Park was let down by the depositing of bags to the front of the units and littering to the rear.

Oaklawns: Grade A. This residential environment was in excellent order with regard to litter – it was spotless throughout. Apart from one street sign which was old and in need replacing the remainder of the area was in very good order.

Miscellaneous Site at ‘Fairgreen Shopping Centre’ and Grand Parade.: Grade B. (beside and at back of Base Computers) This site wasn’t just littered with a wide variety of food related litter, but it was also poorly maintained. Much of the litter appeared ‘old’ and weed growth was pronounced. The overall impression was of a poorly cared for environment.

N4 Approach from Dublin: Grade A. The overall impression created along this busy road was a positive one. Road surface, signage and markings were in very good order and there wasn’t any visible litter throughout the area surveyed.

Mount Street: Grade A. Many of the premises along Mount Street were attractively presented – freshly painted and colourful planting. The attractive paving created a fresh impression and there was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Harbour Place Shopping Centre: Grade A. Clearly a careful eye is kept on this site as it is an extensive area and there wasn’t any visible litter. The overall impression was of a tidy, well attended environment with the low lying shrubbery, trolley bays, pathways and entrances in good order.

Blackhall Street Car Park: Grade A. This large car parking area was generally very good with regard to litter – occasional cigarette butts and chewing gum. Weed growth was pronounced at the base of a white painted wall. The recycle facility within is treated as a separate survey site.

Recycle Facility at Blackhall Street Car Park: Grade B. The recycle bins were fresh and clean. A couple of bags had been deposited in front of the units. The area to the rear was also somewhat littered and poorly maintained.

Mullingar Town Park: Grade A. A colourful planter box at the entrance creates a welcoming impression to Mullingar Town Park. Within the park the seating, bins, lamps, signage, play areas, water feature etc. were all in excellent order. The grass was very neatly maintained and there was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Oliver Plunkett Street: Grade A. While the street was generally good with regard to litter (occasional cigarette butts and chewing gum) it was noted that some of the litter bins were very grubby in appearance. The paving created a freshness to the overall street environment.

Carrey Bridge and Environs: Grade B. Area surveyed included the adjacent riverwalk and walkways. A moderately littered site with plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers and sweet papers very much in evidence both within the water and along the pathway. The litter was a mix of ‘long lie’ and ‘new’ litter.

N4 Longford Link Road: Grade A. Overall, this route created a very good impression across both county borders.