

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

Naas: 7th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

A superb Top 10 performance from Naas, with a couple of sites which were recently improved on previous surveys e.g. Poplar Square and Harbour side. It wasn't just that they were clear of litter but clearly care has been taken with the presentation e.g. painting of derelict buildings etc. Other top ranking sites in Naas included North Main Street and approach road form Ballymoreustace. It would seem that a careful eye is kept on the derelict at Fairgreen as there was no litter directly associated with this property.

R445 Approach Road: Grade A. A clean and fresh impression was created along this route. Road surface and markings were in good order, pathway and grass were well maintained. It was virtually spotless. Previous litter items appear to have been addressed

Council Car Park by the Atrium 'Boyles': Grade C. There were persistent accumulations around the perimeter of this car park – heavy levels of a wide variety of litter were present, including alcohol related litter. Weeds were also pronounced at the base of the railings. It would appear that this area has lacked a thorough cleaning in quite some time.

Poplar Square: Grade A. Poplar Square was a much improved site on previous IBAL litter surveys. This time around it was very much deserving of the top litter grade. The paving presented well and bollards and bins were in good condition.

North Main Street: Grade A. Paving, ornamental trees, bollards, street bins and overall presentation of North Main street was very good. A clean impression pervaded throughout.

Derelict site at Fairgreen: Grade A. Little has been done to 'take the bare' look off this property, which appears to have been vacant / closed down for some time. Clearly a close eye is kept on this site as there was no litter associated with it.

Park by Wells Lane: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter at this park in this well maintained environment. There were a couple of separate green features e.g. green archway and a stream – both of these were very good with regard to litter. Care needs to be taken to ensure that litter doesn't build up at the well which is covered with a grill.

Harbour side: Grade A. This is another site in Naas which was notably improved on previous IBAL surveys, especially with regard to overall presentation. Firstly, the derelict two storey building has been painted, the grounds were worked upon and wild flowers were planted over the low front wall. At the waterside, old car tyres had been brightly painted and were being used as planter boxes and white bollards were very fresh in appearance. The water was clear of litter and the area surrounding it was also deserving of the top litter grade.

Ballymoreustace Approach Road: Grade A. The grass verges were neatly cut and the overall impression created here was a positive one. Road surface, signage and markings were in good order.

Recycle Facility at Fairgreen: Grade B. A somewhat untidy and littered impression was created at this facility. Litter items were present both to the front and to the rear of the units. Much of the litter was small items rather than the dumping / stuffing of boxes and plastic bags that so often happens at recycle facilities.

M7 Connecting Road to Portlaoise: Grade A. Much of this route was in good order – there was a virtual absence of litter to be seen.