

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

Portlaoise: 29th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

A slip on last year, but nonetheless a strong performance from Portlaoise. Top ranking sites included Portlaoise Train Station (Interior and Exterior), Main Street and Fitzmaurice Place – they scored well with regard to litter but were also well presented and maintained e.g. the paving at Fitzmaurice Place was very attractive. A derelict house ‘For Sale’ on Church Street has suffered long-term neglect, resulting in heavy accumulations of litter behind the railings.

R445 Approach Road: Grade A. The overall impression created along this route was a good well. It was well presented and maintained with a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Main Street: Grade A. The paving, black bollards, bins and planting were in very good order along this main shopping street. Many of the shop fronts were well presented and fresh in appearance. Overall, this street was deserving of the top litter grade.

Derelict House: Grade C. (Church Street) ‘For Sale’ signage makes reference to large site with derelict residence. It was noted that the site has had a chequered past with several attempts at selling. This has resulted in a neglected site with heavy accumulations of litter behind the railings – primarily sweet papers, fast-food wrappers and plastic with lower levels of plastic bottles.

Portlaoise Train Station - Exterior: Grade A. The built environment was well presented with the car park in good order. The planted areas added a splash of greenery and signage was in good condition.

Portlaoise Train Station – Interior: Grade A. The waiting room had a fresh appearance with clean paintwork and seating. The platform areas were very tidy and clear of litter. All in all, this was a very good site.

Fitzmaurice Place: Grade A. This outdoor amphitheatre space was well presented, and paved in an attractive geometric pattern. The white shrubby bases were fresh in appearance. Overall, this was a very good site with regard to litter.

Pepper’s Lane: Grade B. The overall impression of this laneway was quite poor – fly posting on base of lamp-post, graffiti and litter stuffed behind a metal grill. There were heavy levels of cigarette butts and lower levels of fast-food wrappers and sweet papers.

Recycle Facility: Grade B. (by council offices) The individual recycle units were fresh in appearance and in good condition. A more thorough approach to cleaning could easily see this recycle facility get the top litter grade – broken glass, some food related litter and bottle caps / lids were on the ground at the base of the units and behind the units.

Lidl Car Park: Grade C. There were heavy accumulations of cigarette butts at several separate areas within the car park, particularly in corner areas and around the perimeter. Lower levels of other litter items were also present.

M7 Connecting Road to Naas: Grade A. This motorway was well maintained with road surfaces and grass verges in good condition. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout the survey area.