

## **An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 2, 2018**

**Carlow: Overall 2018 result: 35th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered**

**Carlow continues to lag behind other towns in coming up short of 'Clean' status. Millennium Bridge and Carlow Town Park was an exceptionally good site – it has been beautifully laid out and clearly it is a very well respected environment. Some of the moderately littered sites included Tullow Street, Public Car Park at Haymarket / Barrow Track and Carlow Shopping Centres – with a little extra effort these could all be top ranking. The shopping area of Homesavers and Environs was seriously littered – it is a smallish space and should be very manageable in terms of cleaning. The M9 – from Dublin exit at M7 to Carlow Exit for N80 - was also poor with regard to litter.**

**N80 Approach to Carlow from M9: Grade B+.** This route just missed getting the top litter grade – some food related litter took away from an otherwise well presented route with road surface, signage and markings in good order.

**Hillview Drive: Grade A.** The residential area of Hillview Drive was very good with regard to litter. A clean and tidy impression was created throughout.

**N80 Approach from Portlaoise: Grade B+.** The overall presentation of this route was excellent with regard to road surface, markings and signage. It was very fresh throughout but let down by litter at the Portlaoise Road Roundabout – with a quick clean up this would be top ranking.

**Tullow Street: Grade B+.** The new paving at the Dublin Street end of Tullow Street certainly creates a very positive impression and enhances the overall presentation of the street. The older paving at Barrack Street end was still heavily stained with chewing gum and cigarette butts and lower levels of coffee cups and sweet papers. There were numerous vacant properties along Tullow Street, some creating quite a poor impression and subject to graffiti.

**Dublin Street: Grade A.** The overall impression created along Dublin Street was a positive one with regard to litter. The provision of cigarette butt units outside various premises would help address the issue of same. Hanging flower baskets and street lamps were in good order.

**Public Car Park at Haymarket and Barrow Track: Grade B.** The presentation of the car park surface was mixed - it was very good in some parts and quite poor and uneven in other parts. Generally, it created an untidy impression with significant cigarette butts, with lower levels of a variety of food related litter.

**Shopping Area – Homesavers and Environs: Grade C.**(Tullow Street) This is a small and compact shopping area with car parking – it had more than its fair share of litter. A wide variety of litter was seen in the car parking area and on the side lanes. A more thorough approach to the maintenance of this site is required.

**Carlow Shopping Centre: Grade B.** Much of this site was in good order and fresh in appearance e.g. car park surface, seating, signage planter boxes, bins etc. A broken bollard had been used as a 'bin/ for disposal of a can. There was some food related litter in the car park and chewing gum on the pavements. With a little extra effort this could be a top ranking site.

**Millennium Bridge and Carlow Town Park: Grade A.** This was an excellent site. The overall presentation was very fresh and clearly it is a much respected environment. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good condition e.g. paving, pathways, planted areas, signage - a top ranking site throughout. There was a 'No Smoking' sign in the park area.

**M9 – from Dublin exit at M7 to Carlow Exit for N80: Grade C.** The whole way from the M7 in Co Kildare to the exit for Carlow at the N80 was badly littered on the passenger side of the motorway. Coffee cups and sweet papers were most prevalent with lower levels of cans, plastic bottles and fast-food wrappers.