

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

**Gorey: Overall 2018 result: 32nd out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered.**

**While many sites in Gorey presented very well, two litter blackspots saw its ranking slip. Main Street was an excellent site – not only did it score well with regard to litter but it was well presented and maintained. Gorey Civic Centre was pristine throughout and the residential area of Hazelwood was spotless. It is clear these top ranking sites are very well respected. Gorey Sports and Leisure Centre was a litter blackspot – no change on the previous survey. Where does responsibility for the management and maintenance of this site lie? The Recycle Facility at Tesco Extra was also very poor – it wasn't casual litter which brought down the grade but dumping of piles of clothing and bags of rubbish.**

**R742 Approach from Courtown: Grade A.**(from M11 turnoff) A clean and tidy first impression of Gorey was created along this road. Wooden picnic tables on the left handside is a welcoming feature. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order.

**R772 Approach from Clogh: Grade B+.** This site just missed the top litter grade. Generally it was quite a good route with regard to litter and general maintenance. A 'Welcome to Gorey [www.lovegorey.ie](http://www.lovegorey.ie)' sign was a nice feature. A 'rest' area on the left hand side on the way in to Gorey had attractive picnic tables and signs indicating that it is maintained by Gorey Tidy Towns volunteers. Some litter items included plastic bottles, plastic sheeting, cans and signage.

**Main Street: Grade A.** The Main Street in Gorey was very well presented and maintained. Paving was attractively laid, large, tiered planter boxes were in good condition and some electricity type boxes had been brightly painted. Wooden seating was colourful and visitor information notice board was fresh in appearance – all in all this was a top ranking site throughout.

**Esmonde Street: Grade A.** The condition of the footpath along Esmonde Street was mixed – some parts had lovely paving and other parts presented less well. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout. A two storey derelict house was boarded up on the ground floor and there was heavy growth in the front garden – this didn't appear to be harbouring litter. 'The Cosy Cottage Café' was enhanced by a colourful wall mural over the adjoining arch.

**Gorey Civic Square: Grade A.**This was an excellent site. The built environment was exceptionally fresh in appearance and the whole area has been very well maintained. The paving, tree planning, grass, bicycle parking, water feature and car parking were all in excellent condition and it was pristine throughout.

**Aldi Car Park: Grade B.** The car park area presented well and was freshly painted with car park surface, signage and bicycle parking in very good condition. However, it was impossible to ignore the litter in the shrubbery around the perimeter of the car park – a wide variety of food and alcohol related litter items as well as a car tyre were present. The level of litter was such that it was verging on becoming a seriously littered site.

**Hazelwood: Grade A.** This is an extensive residential area with many interconnecting roads and several separate green areas – all aspects of the area surveyed were spotless.

**Gorey Sports and Leisure Centre: Grade D.** With so many different clubs / groups (Badminton, Tennis, Girl Guides, Scouts, Gymnastics, Tae Kwon Do, Celtic FC, Boxing, Gorey Country Market) where does responsibility for this site lie? Signage along the roadway was riddled with graffiti and weeds were several feet high. This set the tone for the site further within the grounds. It wasn't just that the area was littered but a corner area had been used as a dumping ground e.g. chairs, child's buggy, street cones, and a host of other miscellaneous items.

**Recycle Facility at Tesco Extra: Grade D.** There were piles of cardboard boxes behind the recycle units. A large black sack was in front of another unit. This wasn't so much a littered site as a site

which had been subjected to dumping. One of the 'No Dumping CCTV' notices at this recycle facility was partially obscured by the pile of clothing discarded in front of it.

**N11 / M11 from Bray to Gorey: Grade A.** There was a virtual absence of litter along this main route to Wexford. It was particularly fresh in presentation and appearance.