

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

Longford: Overall 2018 result: 11th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

Congratulations to Longford on retaining Cleaner than European norms status. There were no seriously littered sites in the town with many of them achieving the top litter grade. Some of the top ranking sites included St. Mel's Cathedral (an excellent site), Dunnes Stores, Market Square, N4 Longford By Pass and the residential area of Teffia Park. These sites were not just good with regard to litter but also overall presentation and maintenance.

Dunnes Stores: Grade A. (Dublin Road). The overall impression at this extensive area was a very good one. Car park surface and markings were fresh in appearance and there was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Recycle Facility at Dunnes Stores: Grade B. There was a definite litter presence at this facility and the overall impression was an untidy one. Cardboard boxes, plastic bags, plastic bottles, bottle tops and broken glass were all present. The area behind the bins was also poor.

N4 Longford Bypass: Grade A. (from Padraic Colum Roundabout to Leo Casey Roundabout). This was an excellent route – road surface, signage and markings were in very good order with the trees creating a lovely effect. There was a complete absence of litter at this site.

Main Street: Grade B+. The footpaths looked well and were generally quite good with regard to litter. Bins and planter boxes were in good condition. Most of the litter was on the kerbs. The main litter items along the main street were sweet papers, cans, fast-food wrappers, plastic bottles and coffee cups. Chewing gum and cigarette butts were particularly pronounced.

St. Mel's Cathedral: Grade A. St. Mel's Cathedral was a commendable site. Not only as there a complete absence of litter but the overall presentation of the area was excellent. It is exceptionally well maintained environment.

Market Square: Grade A. The main Market Square area was excellent with regard to overall presentation and litter. Paving at main square was very fresh in appearance, ornamental trees and large planter boxes and attractive signage all create a very positive impression. The footpath in front of the shops surrounding the square was poor – cracked and uneven.

Longford Train Station: Grade B+. A moderately littered site - the main litter items were coffee cups, plastic bottles, glass bottles (alcohol related), cans and sweet papers. Chewing gum was pronounced at the building entrance. Much of the litter along the railway tracks was 'old'.

N4 approach from Edgeworthstown: Grade B. Much of this road was in good order with regard to litter but there was a light scattering on the grass and more obvious litter near the premises of the hardware – a wide variety of litter was visible at this isolated area.

Teffia Park: Grade A. All appeared in good order at this residential area. On-going road works on the connecting streets didn't impact in any negative way on the litter situation.

Roscommon – Longford Link Road: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along this busy route. There was no discernible difference between the two local authority areas.