

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

Monaghan: Overall 2018 result: 26th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms

A good result again for Monaghan, but a few littered sites brought down the town's score compared to the previous survey. By far the most heavily littered site was the Derelict Site at Old Cross Square – this wasn't just littered but has suffered long term abuse and neglect. Some of the very good sites in Monaghan included Monaghan Shopping Centre, Dublin Street and the town centre site 'The Diamond' – the latter was particularly well presented with all aspects of the area surveyed in very good condition. Clearly it is a much respected environment. As a general observation: In Diamond Centre there was a series of amusing 'anti-litter' posters, all with a movie tie in – e.g. 'The Litter of Oz' / 'Trashspotting' / 'Forest Dump' to name but a few. These posters lay beneath a sign for Monaghan Tidy Towns.

Ulster Canal Park and Greenway: Grade B+. An extensive site, which would have got the top litter grade if it wasn't for the beer cans in the water and a discarded shopping trolley. The remainder of the site presented well – signage, seating, bins, pathway, grass, etc. were generally in good condition but one of the life-buoys had been removed and the remaining holder had graffiti.

Recycle Bank in Castle Road Long Stay Car Park: Grade B. On first impression all seemed in very good order at this recycle bank – the bins were fresh with signage relating to usage of the facility in good order. However, closer inspection revealed litter trapped between the rear of the units and the perimeter wooden fencing. There was also some broken glass at the foot of the units.

Dublin Street: Grade A. Dublin Street suffers from a fair number of vacant / old / unused buildings but these didn't impact in any negative way on the litter situation. Some 'façade' painting had taken place to 'take away the bare look'. Colourful window boxes on a first floor building create a lovely impression and the paving looked very well. It scored well with regard to litter, with a virtual absence throughout.

Monaghan Shopping Centre: Grade A. The overall impression of this shopping centre was an excellent one with trolley bays, paving, bins and covered area in very good condition. The grass verges were tidy and car park was in good order.

The Diamond: Grade A. The built environment was in very good order with some fine red brick buildings and lovely paving. Seating, bins, ornamental trees were all in very good condition – care needs to be taken to ensure that cigarette butts don't accumulate in the grills at the base of the ornamental trees. Substantial flower boxes were wonderfully colourful at the Western Arms Hotel. Overall, The Diamond town centre site was excellent with regard to litter.

N2 Castleblaney Approach Road: Grade A. This road created a very positive first impression of Monaghan town. The road surface, markings and signage were in very good order and there was no visible litter throughout the area surveyed. There were a couple of 'Please Keep Monaghan Tidy' signs closer to the town. A former problem location (with regard to litter) on this road 'Oriel Station' has been revamped as a car wash facility and presented very well.

Car Park on New Road: Grade A. Overall, this car park presented as a tidy environment with a virtual absence of litter in the area surveyed. Some of the car park surface was uneven resulting in substantial puddles.

Recycle Bank at Car Park on New Road: Grade C. A poor impression was created here with items stuffed to the rear of the recycle units and a cardboard box with a series of bags had been discarded to the front of the bins.

R162 Cootehill Approach Road: Grade A. This road presented an excellent first impression of Monaghan town.

Derelict Site at 'Old Cross Square: Grade D. The signage for 'Old Cross Square' was gleaming but site in question was far from gleaming. This corner site, consisting of two adjoining properties, has suffered long term neglect and abuse. Much of the litter, but not all, was alcohol related. 'Sale Agreed' sign on the buildings so hopefully the status will improve very soon.

Monaghan – Cavan Connecting Road N3 / N54: Grade A. Overall, this road was deserving of the top litter grade. Throughout the site there was a good tidy impression.