

Athlone: 2nd out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms

After years in the doldrums, it is great to see Athlone retaining its runner up spot in the IBAL table. All the approach roads got the top litter grade and this high standard was sustained for almost all of the remaining sites surveyed. For anybody arriving by train, Athlone Train Station (Interior and Exterior) was very good with regard to litter and overall presentation. Church Street and the Shopping Centre were also top ranking. The paving at both of these sites creates a very fresh appearance.

R446 Approach Road: Grade A. This road, with high walls to one side and river to the other, presented well, with clean pavements and no obvious litter. Paving was particularly fresh along one stretch.

Athlone Train Station – Exterior: Grade A. The exterior of Athlone Train Station presented well with car park surface / markings / signage, bicycle parking, bin, entrance etc. in good order. There was a complete absence of litter in the area surveyed.

Athlone Train Station – Interior: Grade A. The interior of Athlone Train Station was spotless. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good condition.

Shopping Centre: Grade A. The area directly outside the entrance to the shopping centre created a very clean and tidy impression. Attractive paving presented well and the black bin was in very good condition. It was very good with regard to litter.

Church Street: Grade A. The wide paving (very fresh in appearance) was further enhanced by some lovely wooden seating, The historic centre has been blended with a modern streetscape which has been very well respected. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

Opportunity for Recycling at John Paul Park: Grade B. This small facility presents very well with bins in good order and paving beneath fresh in appearance. It just missed getting the top litter grade – with a little extra care and attention on behalf of the users this could easily be achieved.

Vacant sites on Mardyke Street: Grade A. Site of former 'Home Bakery', opposite 'Jim Fahy' while both clearly unoccupied were fine with regard to litter and so far hadn't created a negative impression along the streetscape.

The Bawn: Grade A. This site is very much dedicated to the birthplace of Count John McCormack. Not much has been done to enhance the overall presentation but it was fine with regard to litter.

Ballymahon Approach Road: Grade A. An old road, into Athlone, bounded by old stone walls and crossing an old railway line. It was excellent with regard to litter.

N61 - Roscommon Connecting Road: Grade A. The overall impression travelling along this somewhat rural route was a good one – there was no obvious litter presence.