

Ennis: 14th out of 40 Towns / Cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms

It is pleasing to see past winner Ennis regain ground lost last year, improving to “Cleaner than European Norms.” With attractive street signage and ‘historical trail’ notices throughout, Ennis is clearly a town that is proud of its heritage. Unlike many other towns throughout the country there were remarkably few ‘vacant / unoccupied’ premises along O’Connell Street and Abbey Street. There were examples of Tidy Towns activity through ‘Biodiversity’ notice in Abbey Street Car Park and plaques naming trees in Tim Smyth Park. Ennis Courthouse and Environs was an excellent site.

N85 Approach from Ennistymon: Grade A. (between Rocky Road Roundabout to Clareabbey Roundabout:)The large sculpture at Rocky Road Roundabout was a striking feature and the area surrounding it was in good order. All appeared in good order with regard to litter between these two roundabouts. The route enhanced by some ‘wild’ flowering.

R469 Quin Approach Road: Grade A. R469 passes through some housing with attractive tree planting on the left and more industrial type premises on the right. There didn’t appear to be any visible litter issues.

O’Connell Street: Grade A. O’Connell Street was exceptionally clean. The overall impression created was a very positive one, with attractive paving. It is quite unusual to see a main shopping street score so well with regard to litter.

Abbey Street: Grade A. This was a very good street with regard to overall presentation and maintenance, with some attractively presented shop fronts. The paving underfoot was particularly attractive and there were some nicely presented olde’ style shop fronts.

Ennis Court House and Environs: Grade A. This very fine Courthouse building stands proud on a raised site. There was a complete absence of litter in the area immediately surrounding the Courthouse and Car Park. The garden area to the front, with seating and statue of De Valera was also top ranking. The seating surrounding De Valera would look much fresher with a coat of paint, but it wasn’t a littered area.

Tim Smyth Park / Active Ennis / Fair Green: Grade A. A large expanse of town park including a couple of playgrounds, playing fields and a basketball court. There was plenty of ‘Poop and ‘Scoop’ signage throughout and the occasional opportunity to ‘recycle’ litter with a green bin beside the regular litter bin. An attractive feature included the recent tree planting with plaques indicating names of same – a Tidy Towns initiative. There was an absence of litter throughout the park, despite plenty of activity in playgrounds and playing fields.

Abbey Street Car Park: Grade A. This street level car park was attractively landscaped with tree planting and Visitor Information Notices / Biodiversity Notice (in conjunction with Tidy Towns). All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order e.g. signage relating to parking, paving, seating, toilet area etc. The IBAL 2017 Winner sculpture is located here, surrounded by some seating.

Riverwalk from Wood Quay Car Park to Mill Bridge: Grade B. The pedestrian riverwalk was generally good with regard to litter but there was a very definite litter presence in the stagnant water at the Mill – mostly cans and bottles (both plastic and glass, alcohol). This took away from an otherwise very nicely presented environment with seating, planted areas and visitor information notices in good order. The murals at the Wood Quay end of the pathway were welcome in an otherwise poorly presented environment.

Bus Eireann / Iarnrod Eireann: Grade B. Much of the station presented well and was good with regard to litter. However, it was impossible to ignore the litter to the rear of the parked buses, with lower levels in the bicycle parking area.

Limerick – Ennis Link Road: Grade B+. If it wasn’t for the ‘chopped up’ litter just after the tunnel this would have been a top ranking site. There was a virtual absence of litter along the remainder of the route.