

Fermoy: 10th out of 40 Towns / Cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms

One heavily littered site - the Recycle Facility in Car Park at end of Patrick Street – brought Fermoy down the rankings. it was in a very poor state and didn't get like this overnight. By contrast, Fermoy Town Park was an exceptional site – it has been beautifully laid out and is clearly a very well managed and respected environment. The River Walk (Thomas Ashe Quay) was another excellent site – a lovely riverside environment with seating, it was very good with regard to litter.

R639 from M1 from Dublin Direction: Grade A. A clean and tidy impression was created along this road. 'Welcome to Fermoy' and 'Please Keep Fermoy a Cleaner Town' notices indicate a pride in the town. There were no visible litter issues.

McDonald's at Circle K Station: Grade A. The area directly outside McDonald's was an exceptionally fresh and clean environment. Paving, picnic tables and small playground were in excellent condition. It was spotless. There were opportunities for 'separating waste' within McDonald's.

Rathealy Approach Road: Grade A. (signage for R666 Ballyduff) A narrow and quite rural and windy route, it got the top litter grade, but only just. Closer to the town there were some hanging baskets, contributing some bright colour.

Recycle Facility in Car Park at end of Patrick Street: Grade C. (nb No name on Car Park Notice) This clothing / bottle / can Bring Centre was in very poor shape. The signage on the clothing units was so old it was worn away. The bottle / can units were fresh in appearance but this is where the word 'fresh' and this facility ends. As well as stuffed items between, beneath and behind the units there was broken glass on the ground, a bag of bottles left beside the units (not overflowing) and cardboard boxes were strewn about. The CCTV large CCTV signage on the wall is being completely ignored. Sites don't get into this state overnight.

Patrick Street: Grade A. The dedicated chewing gum and cigarette butt facilities on street poles appear to be having the desired effect as the lack of both on the paving was very noticeable. There were a certain number of 'vacant / unoccupied' premises - attempts had been made to 'take the bare look' off some of them, but not all. Clearly a careful eye is kept on these premises as there was no litter directly associated with them, bar one at the end of the street. Overall, Patrick Street was excellent with regard to litter.

Car Park at Library: Grade B. An extensive site where clearly big work has been done to tidy up the perimeter planted area – these have been cut right back. The main car park surface was good with regard to litter but there were a couple of incidents of abandoned bags of items and a trolley at the bottom of the long steps. The recycle facility was also littered. Overall, this car park has the appearance of having the potential to be littered, if not carefully monitored.

Emmet Street: Grade A. There is no doubt that great care is taken with the presentation of Emmet Street – some of the residential houses were brightly painted and there was Tidy Town signage outside the XL shop indicating 'Best Renovation' project. There was detailed 'Dog Fouling' notice re mess, smell and disease at the residential end of the street. Overall, it was very good with regard to litter.

Riverwalk at Thomas Ashe Quay: Grade A. This lovely stretch of riverside environment was excellent with regard to litter. The wooden boardwalk, stone and wooden seating, life-belts, bins, tree planting along the footpath and picnic tables on the grass area were all in exceptionally good condition. A top-ranking site throughout.

Fermoy Town Park: Grade A. A real jewel in Fermoy. It is clearly a very well cared for and respected environment. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order e.g. PE equipment, seating, playground, signage, planted areas etc. There was a complete absence of litter throughout Fermoy Town Park.

Mallow Approach Road: Grade A. A lovely first impression of Fermoy is created travelling along this route. It was clear of litter and very well maintained.