

AnTaisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 1, 2019

Longford: 28th out of 40 Towns / Cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

A slight slip in performance in Longford, a past winner of the IBAL league. The majority of the sites surveyed were either top ranking or moderately littered, with one seriously littered site - a Derelict site on Chapel Lane. This wasn't just casually littered but subject to long-term abuse and neglect. St. Mel's Cathedral and St. Mel's Road Car Park were both top ranking – they weren't just good with regard to litter but also presented very well. The residential area of Annaly Park just missed getting the top litter grade due to litter along the back lane.

Ballymahon Street and Main Street: Grade A. This site got the top litter grade, but just about. There was a virtual absence of litter on this long stretch of shopping street. Some parts were more freshly presented than others. The area with sculpture and red brick paving beneath was very good. Chewing gum was particularly pronounced beside the many street bins. There were lower levels of fast-food wrappers and cigarette butts.

Edgeworthstown Approach: Grade B. Still proudly displaying a large sign indicating IBAL 2015 victory, much of this route into Longford presented well with well maintained roundabout and fresh cut grass verges. Road surface, markings and signage were in good order. It was let down by a variety of litter items outside Brian Fallon Hardware. If this area was cleared this road could easily get the top litter grade.

Annaly Park: Grade B+. 'Better Estates Award' Category Winner, 2018 indicates that the residents are clearly proud of their area and there was plenty of attractive planting at the entrance. Much of the estate was in good order with regard to litter but it was let down by litter in the back lane. Not much effort is required for this to be a top ranking site.

Dublin Street: Grade A. The overall impression created along Dublin Street was a positive one. Paving, bollards and bins were in good order and there were no major litter issues. A 'boarded' up property had been improved with façade painting on the windows, taking away the 'bare' look.

Derelict Site on Chapel Lane: Grade C. This site wasn't just casually littered but subject to long-term neglect and abuse e.g. dumping. Where does responsibility for this site lie? The remainder of Chapel Lane was very well maintained.

St. Mel's Road Car Park: Grade A. All aspects of this car park were in very good order and there was a complete absence of litter throughout. It was clean, tidy and very well maintained.

Longford Town Shopping Centre: Grade B. Not only was there a definite litter presence throughout this site but the overall impression was one of a lack of thorough cleaning and poor maintenance. Many of the line markings / pedestrian crossing markings were worn away. Trolley bay had discarded cardboard boxes. The large 'Strictly No Dumping 24 Hr CCTV' notice was the freshest aspect of this site.

Longford Bring Centre: Grade B. (Beside Library) The presentation of this small facility was a clean and fresh one. It could easily get the top litter grade, if it wasn't for the litter trapped between the recycle units. Tidy Longford / Tidy Towns notice says 'You have done the **right thing** so far, please finish the job and take your bags / cardboard boxes with you to help keep this facility clean and tidy'.

St. Mel's Cathedral: Grade A. The grounds of St Mel's Cathedral were in excellent order. Paving was in very good condition, creating a fresh appearance.

N63 Longford / Roscommon Link Road: Grade B. The overall impression along both sides of the local authority was a good one. But it was let down by very obvious litter and dumping in one area, on Longford side. This takes away from the presentation and maintenance of the road e.g. cutting of grass verges.