

Fermoy: Joint 12th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

A sense of community is very much in evidence in Fermoy, winner of the League last year. Clearly the Tidy Towns group is a very active one, not just with regard to litter but also in terms of awards for shop fronts and relating to items of history within the town e.g. information notice on history of Mart Car Park. With so many top ranking sites, a few deserve a special mention e.g. Fermoy Town Park (always an exceptionally well presented and maintained environment), O'Neill Crowley Quay and Patrick Street. The one area which brought down the overall appearance of Fermoy was the recycle facility beside Mart Car Park (by far the most heavily littered site in the town). The recycle facility in the Library Car Park was also littered.

O'Neill Crowley Quay: Grade A. From Pearse Square to Mill Island / Ploemur Car Park. All aspects of the area surveyed were in excellent condition - lifebelts, paving, seating, bins and planter boxes attached to the railings. There was a complete absence of litter throughout. A small item to note – the signage for O'Neill Crowley Quay at Pearse Square was almost illegible.

Cork Road Approach: Grade A. Overall, this was a clean and tidy route into Fermoy. There were some occasional fast-food items at Spar / Texaco outdoor seating area. Closer to the town was spotless.

Car Park at Library: Grade B. The main car park was generally fine with regard to litter. However, the bottle bank was not in good shape with bags of items left in front on the units.

R639 Approach: Grade A. (from the direction of Junction 14 from M9 / roundabout with McDonald's) There was a virtual absence of litter along this road. Extensive cones were laid for road works - didn't impact negatively on the litter situation. The small tree lined stretch of terraced houses closer to the town presented well.

N72 Waterford / Dungarvan Approach Road: Grade A. Attractive stretch of road with mature trees - from just before signage for 60km signage. Some construction work closer to the town - again, no visible impact on litter situation. Background environmental indicators were very good.

Clothing / Bottle Bank in car park beside Mart Car Park: Grade C. The overall impression and appearance at this facility was a very poor one, not unlike IBAL Survey 1, 2019. Many many bags / black sacks had been stuffed between the bin units and there was lots of loose litter at the base of the units. Some of the clothing units were overflowing. The immediate environs were also poor, with a fenced area close by heavily littered.

Fermoy Town Park: Grade A. Not a single piece of litter in the entire park - it was a credit to the users and it was getting plenty of use on a chilly but sunny November afternoon. Maintenance and presentation of the park was excellent - all aspects were in very good order e.g. PE equipment, playground, benches, seating etc. A notice reminds users that 'Cigarette butts' are litter.

Mill Island / Ploemur Car Park: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout this well presented and maintained car park. Visitor information notice / The Country Code notices were in very good order.

Patrick Street: Grade A. An excellent street in terms of litter. There was some Fermoy Tidy Towns signage relating to IBAL 2018 winner on a shop window. A noticeable feature were the stand alone cigarette butt / chewing gum units on poles. Nice wooden seating at one junction and planter boxes looked well. There were a number of closed down / vacant units, some of which have had attempts to take away the bare look.

MacCurtain Street: Grade A. A very good street with regard to litter. A real gem along the street was the 'Community / Resource Centre' – there was a beautifully landscaped garden (with water feature) - a calming atmosphere prevailed. Remainder of the street had some vacant / boarded up properties but clearly a careful eye is kept on them as there was no litter in the immediate vicinity of same.