

Swords: 3rd out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

A stellar showing for this large urban area on its return to the League. Swords is a model for others to follow. The River Walk and Castle Shopping Centre were top ranking this time around, as was Swords Town Park (excellent in terms of presentation and maintenance), Swords Castle and the Main Street – the latter presented well with silver bollards, floral arrangements, traffic light box art, seating etc.

R125 Swords to Dunshaughlin Approach: Grade A. This road created a positive impression with litter free kerbs / roadside and freshly cut grass. New bins looked well.

Swords Castle: Grade A. Swords Castle and the immediate environs was an excellent site in terms of presentation and litter. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order – clearly it is a very well respected and cared for environment.

Swords Town Centre – Shopping Centre: Grade A. There was plenty of planting / flower boxes to enhance this outdoor shopping environment. Paving, street lamps and signage were all in very good order and the town centre was excellent with regard to litter.

Castlevue: Grade A. Avenue / Drive / Crescent / Rise. This residential area with a series of interconnecting roads was in excellent order. Not only was in very good with regard to litter but it was also very freshly presented and maintained.

Main Street: Grade A. Sleek stainless steel bins created a fresh impression, along with plenty of hanging baskets, seating, railings / bollards, floral arrangements and some 'some traffic light box art'. There were a few incidents of graffiti on various surfaces e.g. 'pay & display' machine and signage. The Main Street in Swords scored very well with regard to litter, just some old, faded chewing gum.

Castle Shopping Centre: Grade A. This site got the top litter grade, but only just – it could quickly slide to a moderately littered site. Little has been done to enhance the overall environment, with litter bin looking old and grubby. There was graffiti on the green shutters of a property 'To Let'.

River Walk: Grade A. Much improved compared to previous IBAL Anti-Litter surveys. There was no visible litter in the river and the pathway was fresher.

Swords Town Park: Grade A. This large expanse of park, just at the top of the Main Street was an excellent one in terms of litter and presentation / maintenance. The adjacent stream was also litter free.

Recycle Facility at Glen Ellen Road: Grade B. The recycle units and signage were in good order but the overall impression was an untidy one. One of the clothing units was overflowing, lids were scattered around and there was some graffiti on the back of a sign.

Pinnock Hill Roundabout to Malahide Roundabout: Grade A. This was an excellent route with road surface / markings and signage in very good order. The grass verges had been freshly cut and there were some nice floral displays at the roundabout. Bins provided at bus stops on both sides of the road.