

**Athlone: 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 40 Towns / Cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.**

**Athlone is back among the cleanest towns in Ireland after this superb result, with nine out of the ten sites surveyed getting the top litter grade, and some deserving a special mention– the Recycle Facility at Gracepark was one of the freshest and cleanest facilities – so often this is not the case throughout the rest of the country. The Strand – Shannon Bank was good with regard to litter, despite plenty of people in the immediate area; there was a complete absence of litter at Devinish Castle ruins and the grass surrounding it had recently been cut.**

**Approach from M6: Grade A.** A clean and tidy route, creating a positive first impression of Athlone – this high standard was maintained for all bar one of the sites surveyed.

**Recycle Facility at Gracepark Road: Grade A.** A very fresh looking amenity which has been well respected. This facility was one of the freshest and cleanest in the country. There was a virtual absence of litter at the units and in the immediate environs.

**Lower Road Approach: Grade A.** A very clean and tidy road with road surface, markings and signage in good order. It was very good with regard to litter.

**The Strand - Shannon Bank: Grade A.** This riverside environment is enjoyed by many in summer. The overall impression with regard to litter was a reasonably positive one. The built environment was in good order.

**Griffith Street: Grade A.** There were no litter issues along this residential road. Some of the houses were freshly painted, others less so.

**Devinish – Old Court: Grade A.** The castle ruins and immediate environs were clear of litter. The grass surrounding the castle had recently been cut.

**Uninhabited premises Junction of Northgate Street / Devinish: Grade A.** There were a few buildings in this area and clearly a close eye is kept on them as there was no litter directly associated with them.

**Northgate Street: Grade A.** The fresh paving along some parts of this street creates a clean impression and many of the shop fronts presented well. There was a virtual absence of litter along Northgate Street.

**Cathedral and Environs: Grade A.** A very freshly presented environment and generally good with regard to litter. Abundant colourful planting in the car park is a welcome addition. The car park area was not immune from cigarette butts.

**N61 Connecting road with Roscommon: Grade B.** Most of this route was good with regard to litter but the grade was brought down by litter items at areas where cars appear to linger.