

Castlebar: Joint 11th out of 40 towns / cities. Clean to European Norms.

It is pleasing to see Castlebar score its highest ranking in 8 years, given its struggles in the League some years ago. Over half of the sites surveyed received the top litter grade and there were no seriously littered sites. Top ranking sites included GMIT Mayo Campus (excellent in terms of presentation and maintenance), Shopping Centre with Aldi / Next / TK Maxx (an exceptionally freshly presented environment with a complete lack of litter throughout); the residential areas of The Orchard and Spencer Manor were also excellent in terms of litter and presentation.

Industrial Area with Ceramic City Tile Warehouse / Symphony Kitchens etc.: Grade B. The individual premises at this complex were mostly very well presented but there was one unit, J Mulroy's which was generally run down and littered. The overall presentation of the communal open areas was very poor and neglected. This site could quite easily deteriorate if not addressed.

Mayo Leisure Point / Castle Leisure Centre: Grade B+. The colourful mural looks very fresh and the whole environment was generally very well maintained. If it wasn't for the litter at the picnic table this would have been a top ranking site. The picnic table itself presented poorly and would benefit from a coat of paint.

N5 Westport Approach Road: Grade A. (from speed limit to roundabout at Lannagh Road). A clean and welcoming impression was created along this route. Road surface, markings and signage were in good order and the overall impression was a good one.

GMIT Mayo Campus: Grade A. This was an excellent site in terms of presentation and litter. All aspects of the area surveyed (paving, seating, planting, bins etc.) were in very good order and it was spotless throughout – a credit to those responsible for the maintenance, especially as there would have been no students on campus for many many months.

Mayo General Hospital: Grade B. The grounds of the hospital were well presented and maintained but the site was let down by face masks and gloves close to the building entrance. Car park area, large expanse of grass etc. were all clear of litter.

Shopping Centre - Aldi / Next / TK Maxx etc.: Grade A. An exceptionally freshly presented built environment with all aspects in very good condition e.g. paving, planter boxes, low lying planting, car parking area, bollards and signage 'Help Keep Everyone Safe – Stand & shop apart'. It was spotless throughout.

The Orchard: Grade A. There was a complete absence of litter throughout this small low density residential environment. The whole area was very well presented and maintained.

Spencer Manor: Grade A. All aspects of this residential development were in excellent order – grass, planting, paving etc. and there was a complete absence of litter throughout.

R310 Pontoon Approach Road: Grade A. (from Sacred Heart home to L1721 junction) A very clean and tidy approach road to Castlebar, creating a positive first impression of the town. Pavements, road, grass and planting were in very good condition. An empty building and storage yard had been cleaned up and was visibly cleaner than the past.

N5 Castlebar – Swinford link Road: Grade B. The overall impression created along this road was a littered one with coffee cups, plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers and sweet papers present. It was more noticeable where the grass verges had been recently cut as litter is likely to be hiding in the longer grass.