

An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 1, 2020

Cavan: 23rd out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

Cavan is among the most consistent towns we survey – clean, but middle- as opposed to top-ranking. The Recycle Facility at Tesco Car Park was a much improved site and it looks like great care has been taken with the overall presentation of same. Top ranking sites included Bridge Street and the residential area of Ashgrove – both were not just good with regard to litter but were well presented and maintained. The town was let down by one very poor site - an abandoned building at the corner of R212 and Ballinagh Road – it wasn't just casually littered but subject to dumping over a prolonged period of time.

N3 Dublin / Virginia Approach Road: Grade B. There was a steady stream of food related litter along the kerbs and roadside on the passenger side of this route, especially at the town centre signage. Some of the 'litter free' signage was old and in need of cleaning.

Car Park at Aldi / Argos etc.: Grade B+. The car park was very freshly presented with some nice tree planning along the pathways. The main car park area was generally good with regard to litter but there were some litter items in the low lying shrubbery. With a little extra effort this could easily be a top ranking site.

College Street: Grade A. This street got the top litter grade, but only just. Care needs to be taken at an untidy storage area where litter could quickly build up. Cigarette butts were pronounced. Some of the buildings presented poorly with peeling paint.

Main Street: Grade B. Much of the Main Street presented well with attractive paving, fresh cigarette butt units, clean bins and colourful planting. The open space at the junction of Town Hall Street was in very good order and provided an opportunity for respite in the middle of the street. Much of the street was generally fine with regard to litter but what brought down the litter grade was the litter in the basements of 'The Sports Shop' and 'Krav' Takeaway.

Tesco Car Park: Grade A. This site got the top litter grade, but if the level of cigarettes increases this could easily be downgraded as cigarettes were present at the trolley loading bays and on the kerbs. There was nice use of floral displays, both hanging baskets and flowerpots, throughout the car park. Perhaps there is a need for cigarette butt notices and separate facilities for the disposal of same?

Recycle Facility at Tesco Car Park: Grade B+. There was a notable improvement at this facility, which was a Grade C site in IBAL 2019 survey. The bins and signage relating to the facility were very fresh in appearance and there was nice brick work and wooden fencing to the rear. A more thorough approach to the cleaning of the rear of the recycle bins would ensure a Grade A.

Bridge Street: Grade A. Bridge Street presented very well with nice paving, fresh bollards and road markings and some colourful window boxes. There was a complete absence of litter throughout.

Derelict site at the corner of R212 and Ballinagh Road: Grade D. This corner site building has been abandoned and wasn't just casually littered but subject to dumping – it didn't get to this state overnight. It needs urgent attention.

Ashgrove: Grade A. There was colourful planting at the entrance to the residential area of Ashgrove. It was immaculately maintained and there was a complete absence of litter throughout.

Killashandra Approach Road: Grade A. A clean and tidy route, creating a positive first impression of Cavan. The freshly cut grass verges didn't have chopped up litter, as can so easily happen.