

Dundalk: 28th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered.

It is disappointing to see Dundalk fail to make clean status, having been a top ten performer 2 years ago. Five of the sites surveyed got the top litter grade, with two seriously littered ones and the remainder were moderately littered. A top ranking site that deserves special mention is Courthouse Square – it was beautifully laid out with paving creating a very fresh and clean impression; The Train Station is obviously a place of pride with so many ‘awards’ displayed within the station and it was fitting that it got the top litter grade. The two poor ranking sites were the ‘Bring Centre’ at Boyds and Coes Road West – both were heavily littered.

Dundalk Train Station: Grade A. Dundalk Train Station proudly displayed various ‘Awards’ / ‘Diplomas’ within the station – clearly it is very proud of these awards. They had also displayed some illustrations of railway life in by-gone days. It is only fitting that the station was excellent with regard to litter. Seating, bins, bollards, etc. were in good order.

Park Street: Grade B. The main litter items along Park Street were sweet wrappers and cigarette butts with lower levels of fast-food wrappers and cans. Weeds were particularly pronounced for a main shopping street.

Derelict Premises on Park Street: Grade A. A red building (though much of the paint is peeling) with white screen and the remnants of word ‘Spices’ in the title, but otherwise illegible. While the building itself presents poorly, clearly a careful eye is kept on it as there was no litter directly associated with it.

Court House Square: Grade A. This area has been very attractively laid out with lovely paving creating a great impression. Seating sculpture, planting etc. were in very good condition and the street bins provide the opportunity for separating cans / plastic bottles from regular waste – a very simple exercise that should be replicated throughout the country. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

‘Bring Centre’ near Boyds: Grade C. The overall impression created at this site was a very littered one, with loose items on the ground immediately in front of the units and plastic packaging stuffed between them. Cardboard boxes were strewn about. This facility didn’t have dumped items so often associated with a ‘Bring / Recycle Centre’.

Pedestrian Entrance to Clanbrassil St. Car Park: Grade B. Large and colourful wall mural (sponsored by Dundalk Business Improvement District) is a welcome feature along this laneway. Some loose litter items, mostly cigarette butts and fast-food wrappers with lower levels of other food related items detracted from the efforts made with this presentation of this area.

172 Approach Road: Grade A. Road surface and markings were in good order with grass / pathway freshly presented – there was no litter issues of note.

Coe’s Road West: Grade C. On first impression, the road / pathway were clear of litter. Further inspection revealed heavy levels of a wide variety of food related litter items lurking in the low lying shrubbery along this stretch of road. These items were not just isolated to one area but typical of a long stretch of the road.

Car Park at Lidl: Grade A. This large expanse of car park with low lying shrubbery around some sides was generally fine with regard to litter.

M1 Dundalk – Drogheda Connecting Road: Grade B. A somewhat littered site with fast-food related litter being the most obvious type.