

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

Ennis: 6th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

A recent IBAL winner, Ennis continues to perform very strongly in the IBAL League, with eight out of the ten sites surveyed getting the top litter grade. Some examples of the top ranking sites included Abbey Street Car Park (home to IBAL sculpture), Abbey Street, Tim Smythe Park and Clare County Museum – these sites were not just good with regard to litter but were very well presented and maintained. Gort Road Business Park was by far the most heavily littered site surveyed – a couple of isolated areas within the business park took away from the remaining clean areas.

N85 Ennistymon Approach Road: Grade A. (from Clareabbey Roundabout to Rocky Road Roundabout). There were no visible litter issues along this busy route. Road surface, markings and signage were in good condition.

Clare County Museum and Environs: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter at the entrance and immediate surrounding environment. Bicycle parking, bins, visitor information notice etc. were all in very good condition.

Ennis Bus and Train Station: Grade A. This site had been somewhat littered in previous IBAL surveys, most notably to the rear of where the reversed buses were parked – not so this time around. The entrance to the train station was very good with regard to litter, the remainder of the car park was also good, bar some cigarette butts.

Abbey Street Car Park: Grade A. A lovely riverside town centre car park with tree planting, colourful hanging baskets, seating around the IBAL sculpture, visitor information notices and quite an innovative feature for a car park, an 'Ecofil' drinking water dispenser. It was excellent with regard to litter.

River walk from Bank Place to Mill Water Wheel / Sluice Gates: Grade A. While not completely clear of litter, the overall impression of this long stretch of Riverwalk was a good one. Graffiti was definitely a feature, on many different surfaces e.g. litter bins, buoyancy aids, electricity box etc. The area was much enhanced by colourful hanging baskets along the route and Bank Place had abundant flowering.

Abbey Street: Grade A. Currently pedestrianised, (barriers at either end of the street) Abbey Street presented well with some 'olde' style shop fronts and attractive paving. Street bins and signage were in good condition. Abbey Street was very good with regard to litter.

Tim Smythe Park: Grade A. The grounds of Tim Smythe Park were very well presented and maintained with playgrounds, PE equipment, playing fields, seating, signage, visitor information notices etc. in very good condition. Graffiti was present, most notably at the low building within the park. There were no litter issues throughout the extensive grounds.

Gort Road Business Park: Grade C+. The majority of this large complex was clear of litter, but not all. An area behind the electric pylons was somewhat neglected but the real litter problem lay in the parking area and low lying shrubbery to the front of the business park – a corner site as one drives in, on the right hand side. There were heavy levels of a wide variety of litter, mostly food related. This will only deteriorate further if not addressed.

R458 Gort Road Approach: Grade B. All was in good order along this stretch of road, bar one isolated field which brought down the litter grade. This field was directly across from Gort Road Business Park – as well as casual litter there was the beginning of discarding of other miscellaneous items. If not addressed, this field and immediate environment will attract further discarding of items.

Limerick – Ennis Link Road: Grade A. A clean and tidy impression was created along this road – there were no visible litter issues.