

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

Letterkenny: 16th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

Another good performance from Letterkenny. It was great to see such an improvement at Letterkenny General Hospital - this had been a seriously littered site when surveyed last year – this time around it was deserving of the top litter grade. The Main Street and Church Lane were looking particularly well, not just with regard to litter but also in terms of presentation and maintenance e.g. paving, seating, planting, street bins etc. An Grianan Theatre is a wonderful amenity which was in exceptionally good condition. By far the most heavily littered site was a short stretch of road from the Long Lane – Windy Hall junction to the site of A McGovern Joinery - there was a pronounced litter presence throughout.

Church Lane: Grade A. Church Street was very nicely presented with many properties brightly painted, some adorned with colourful flower boxes. Paving was in good order and a wall had some fresh looking art work. It was excellent with regard to litter.

Main Street: Grade A. The Main Street in Letterkenny was very much deserving of the top litter grade. All elements of the area surveyed were in very good order e.g. paving, flower boxes / planting, street bins, signage, seating etc. and there were no litter issues. The majority of the buildings were very well presented, some deserving special mention e.g. AIB building,

Rosemount Terrace: Grade A. (off Rosemount Lane, off Main Street). There is great pride along this residential road, with a plaque from Tidy Towns 1990 Special Endeavour Award – this is obviously ongoing as evidenced by the very clean environment and the abundance of flower boxes / planters. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the derelict site with overgrown grass / shrubbery as there was no visible litter associated with it.

An Grianan Theatre: Grade A. An excellent site in term so both litter and presentation. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order – paving, seating, ornamental trees, bins, planting etc.. It was pristine throughout.

Letterkenny General Hospital: Grade A. A very much improved site compared to IBAL 2019 visit when it was a heavily littered site. While not quite spotless, there were no longer the heavy accumulations of cigarette butts and the curve windbreak at the entrance was much cleaner. On the whole, the grounds were well maintained

Letterkenny Town Park: Grade A. Most of the signage at the entrance was in good order, but 'alcohol free zone' sign beneath the 'No Cycling' / 'No Dogs' etc was peeling and worn away. The grounds of the park were very well presented and maintained – there was a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

Long Lane: Grade B. This residential area was somewhat improved site compared to IBAL 2019 visit, but still a littered one. There was a wide variety of food related litter present with sweet wrappers the most prevalent. While there were no accumulations of litter the presence was very obvious throughout the length of Long Lane. The overall presentation was not great with weeds, untended grass and derelict site.

Approach Road – Long Lane – Windy Hall: Grade C. Area surveyed was from the Long Lane – Windy Hall junction to the site of A McGovern Joinery. This short stretch of road needs a thorough cleaning as it was heavily littered throughout – all manner of litter was present.

Circular Road: Grade B. (from Roundabout at General Hospital out to Dr McGinley Road and Glencar Road). This route was generally well presented with good road surface, markings and signage and roadside verges were well tended. However, there was noticeable litter, mainly food related, most noticeable along the road frontage at Glencar Shopping Centre.

Recycle Bank at Simpson's Supermarket: Grade B+. This small facility for clothing and cans / bottles would have got the top litter grade if it wasn't for the number of cardboard boxes which had been abandoned by the units.

N15 and N13 Sligo to Letterkenny Link Road: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along this route with no discernible difference between the various local authorities. The overall impression created was a positive one.