

Longford: 24th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered.

It is disappointing that Longford has again failed to reach the heights of a few years ago, when it topped the table. The town suffers from too many moderately littered sites. The derelict site at former Good Year / Michelin Tyres Premises is clearly carefully watched - as it presents very poorly and yet it was not littered, as can so easily happen with sites such as this. There was an eye-catching 'anti cigarette butt' feature along the Main Street - *an ashtray of butts with signage 'No Butts, is your DNA in this bowl? Every week our volunteers pick up hundreds of cigarette ends'* and yet cigarette butts were very much a feature at many of the town centre sites surveyed. It was noted that there were many 'vacant' sites along Dublin Street but there was no litter directly associated with them.

Longford Shopping Centre: Grade A. Paving and silver bollards created a fresh impression at this shopping centre environment. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout the area surveyed. Interesting to note that there were no visible litter bins or cigarette butt units.

Derelict site - Ex Good Year / Michelin Tyres Premises: Grade A. Clearly a very careful eye is kept on this building / premises as it presents very poorly and yet there was no litter directly associated with it.

Recycle Facility close to Dealz: Grade B. The recycle units were fresh in appearance and the overall impression created at this facility was a somewhat littered one – mostly sweet papers, glass, plastic and face masks. Small items were beginning to build up at the base of the units - a more thorough approach to cleaning would make a big difference.

Anneley Court: Grade B. The litter items along this laneway were small but persistent – primarily sweet papers, cigarette butts and chewing gum with lower levels of plastic.

Hibernian Court: Grade B. This is a very freshly presented environment with paving, bollards, streetlamps, colourful planting etc. in good order. Though moderately littered, the level of litter at Hibernian Square was such that it was verging towards a Grade C status. The main area was good regarding litter but there was litter in the corner, under bins, in cracks and gutter.

Dublin Street: Grade B. The paving along some stretches of Dublin Street created a very fresh impression and bins, bollards and signage were in good order. Most of the litter was along the edge of the shops, in the gutter or just on the kerb. While many of the shops were vacant, there was no litter directly associated with them.

Main Street: Grade B. Credit is certainly due for the strong 'anti cigarette butt' notice – an ashtray of butts with signage *'No Butts, is your DNA in this bowl? Every week our volunteers pick up hundreds of cigarette ends'*. And yet cigarette butts were still very much a feature along Main Street, along with fast-food wrappers, sweet papers and lower levels of dog fouling, and chewing gum. A large vacant building had the 'bare look' improved by the presentation of 'Literary Longford' feature.

R194 Ballinalee Approach Road: Grade A. Road surface, markings and signage were in good order along this road and the overall impression was a good one with regard to litter.

R293 Ardagh Approach Road: Grade B. A moderately littered route leading to Longford, with a mix of litter items, both food and cigarette related, along with some face masks.

N63 Longford – Roscommon Connecting Road: Grade A. The overall impression created along this road with regard to litter was a positive one. Grass cutting had recently taken place and it hadn't thrown up 'chopped up' litter as happens on other routes in the country.