

Monaghan: 25th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered.

With only 4 top ranking sites, Monaghan has slipped somewhat this time round. 'The Diamond' continues to look very well with all aspects of the area surveyed in very good order and it was excellent with regard to litter. Directly beside this lovely environment is 'The Diamond Centre' which was again a very heavily littered site – this has been the case for along number of years. There was little change at the Recycle Facility at New Road which continues to present very poorly with items stuffed between, beneath and behind the recycle units.

Recycle Facility at New Road: Grade C. A very poor and untidy site with a myriad of items, some non-recyclable, abandoned at the facility. Clearly a very careless attitude prevails here (it was similarly poor in 2019) with items stuffed between, behind and beneath the recycle units. Some of the 'CCTV' notices were broken and clear bottle bank was full.

Monaghan Shopping Centre: Grade A. The overall impression created at this site was a very positive one with car park surface and markings in good condition and well maintained grass. Bins, bollards, paving and signage were in very good condition.

Pound Hill and Environs: Grade B+. There was sporadic loose mostly food related e.g. coffee cups, plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers and sweet papers, mainly on the grass and pavement. The area surveyed was well served by litter bins. A boarded up corner site presented poorly.

'The Diamond': Grade A. This beautifully presented town centre environment was in excellent order – the paving was exceptionally fresh in appearance, the wooden seating was in good condition and the bins, planting and ornamental trees were in excellent condition.

The Diamond Centre: Grade C. As with many previous IBAL surveys there is a stark contrast between the presentation of the 'The Diamond' town centre and 'The Diamond Centre' – the latter continues to be a very heavily littered environment with high levels of sweet papers, plastic bottles, cans and fast-food wrappers. Cigarette butts were also very pronounced, and a couple of shopping trolleys had been abandoned. This is despite the efforts of 'Monaghan Tidy Towns' signage outside the cinema.

Ulster Canal Park / Greenway: Grade B+. The pathway was generally good with regard to litter, but it was the bottles (glass and plastic) and plastic bags in the water which brought down the litter grade. One of the life-belts was missing and there was graffiti on several separate surfaces. The black bin beside the picnic table was full / overflowing.

N2 Castleblayney / Dublin Approach Road: Grade A. A clean and tidy impression was created along this road – the grasslands and grass verges were in very good order and it was very good with regard to litter.

Glaslough Street: Grade A. The overall impression along Glaslough Street was a positive one with a virtual absence of litter throughout. Care needs to be taken to ensure that cigarette butts don't accumulate.

N12 Armagh Approach Road: Grade B+. Road surface, markings and signage were in very good order, with excellently maintained grass verges. Loose litter items took away from an otherwise well presented environment.

N3 / N59 Cavan – Monaghan Connecting Road: Grade B. This was a mixed site in terms of litter with the stretch of road in County Cavan scoring very well with regard to litter but the stretch in County Monaghan was poor. Grass cutting took place, resulting in 'chopped up' litter lining long stretches of the road – all of this litter appeared to be food related.