

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

Mullingar: Joint 11th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed.

A successful return to the IBAL Litter League for Mullingar, with seven top ranking sites, among them St. Oliver Plunkett Street, Cathedral Square and Joe Dolan Square / Market House – the latter was particularly freshly presented and excellent with regard to litter. By far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Mullingar was the Canal – heavy levels of cans (mainly alcohol related) had accumulated in the water.

St. Oliver Plunkett Street: Grade A. The paving looked well along St. Oliver Plunkett Street and the overall impression was a good one. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Recycle Facility by Church / Springfield Stores: Grade B. There was a definite litter presence at this facility, the level of which was such that it was verging on being Grade C status. The abandoned shopping trolleys had some wrapping / refuse associated with the use of the facility e.g. plastic bags and cardboard boxes. The shopping trolleys need to be removed, otherwise it is likely that further items will accumulate in them.

N52 Tyrrellspass Approach Road: Grade A. A very good impression was created along this route, creating a positive first impression of Mullingar. Road surface, markings, signage were in good order and grass / pathway were in good condition.

Car Parking at Aldi: Grade B+. The built environment was well presented and fresh in appearance. This was let down by a casual attitude towards the disposal of litter. The overall impression was of a somewhat littered site, mostly cigarette butts with lower levels of sweet papers, fast-food wrappers, plastic wrapping and face masks.

R390 Athlone Approach: Grade A. Road surface, markings and signage were in very good order and the overall impression along this route was a good one with little litter of note. Grass had recently been cut and pathway was well maintained.

Mullingar Railway Station: Grade A. This was a particularly good site with regard to litter – there was a complete absence throughout the interior and exterior of the station. Clearly station staff are very attentive and there has been respect by the users of the facility.

Joe Dolan Square / Market House and Environs: Grade A. An attractively presented town centre environment where the paving and planting looked very well. All aspects of the area surveyed were in good order e.g. bicycle parking, bins, seating etc. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

Cathedral Square and precincts: Grade A. The grounds of the Cathedral were well maintained with some lovely mature planting. There was very little litter of note throughout the extensive area surveyed.

Canal Bank: Grade C: The pedestrian pathway was generally fine with regard to litter, but it was a completely different story within the water – accumulations of beer cans were very visible due to the fact the water was not very deep. There was also litter trapped in shrubbery along the banks of the canal – this will probably make its way into the water if not picked out beforehand.

N52 Connecting Road to Tullamore: Grade A. Overall, this route was deserving of the top litter grade. There was a virtual absence of litter.