

Portlaoise: 4th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

Another excellent result for Portlaoise, one of its best ever, with eight out of the ten sites surveyed getting the top litter grade and no seriously littered sites. Top ranking sites included all the approach roads, the Main Street, Train Station and the small park area (formerly amphitheatre) – the latter looked particularly well, it was freshly presented and excellent with regard to litter.

Approach road by GAA Grounds: Grade A. An excellent route in terms of road surface / markings / signage and overall presentation. This road creates a positive first impression of Portlaoise and this is sustained for well half the sites surveyed.

Pepper Lane - Pedestrian area: Grade B. This was a more littered site than previous IBAL surveys. Cigarette butts were the most prevalent with lower levels of food related litter e.g. sweet wrappers, coffee cups and plastic bottles.

Open air area (ex) now a park: Grade A. A transformation has taken place at what used to be an outdoor amphitheatre – now it is a public space with sculpture / seating / planting etc. It has been attractively landscaped and was excellent with regard to litter. The overall impression created here was a very fresh and clean one.

Portlaoise Railway Station: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter at Portlaoise Train Station – it was a well presented environment and all aspects were in good order.

Main Street: Grade A. A freshly presented main shopping street with paving, black bollards, street bins etc in very good condition. There were no litter issues to report.

Derelict site – Gala branding, 75 Main Street: Grade A. This building presents very poorly, with fly posting on the windows and the remnants of remnants of flyposting, partially ripped away. It seems that tape has been placed on the glass window to reinforce it, it looks very messy. Clearly a careful eye is kept on it as there was no litter directly associated with it.

Lidl Car Park: Grade B. The main surface area of the car park and the trolley bay was generally fine with regard to litter. However, litter lurked at the base of the low-lying shrubbery surrounding the perimeter of the car park, much of it food related, but also significant cigarette related litter. The level of litter was such that it was verging on becoming a Grade C site.

Recycle Facility at Council Offices: Grade A. The overall impression created at this bottle / can facility was a good one, with minimal litter items associated with the usage of same. The bin units were clean and fresh.

R445 Approach: Grade A. Attractive planting / grass areas, combined with good road surface / markings / signage create a very good first impression of Portlaoise.

M9 - Newbridge – Portlaoise Connecting Road: Grade A. A very clean and tidy impression was created along this motorway with no obvious litter items, only occasional car parts.