

**Athlone: 16<sup>th</sup> out of 37 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.**

**In common with many other towns, Athlone has slipped, with a couple of quite bad sites halting its progress of recent years. The residential areas of Fairlands and Retreat Avenue were both deserving of the top litter grade. The streetscape along Main Street was excellent, creating a very fresh impression – it was also excellent with regard to litter. By far the most heavily littered site in Athlone was the Batteries Park / Playground – a litter blackspot, it was characterised by large volumes of all manner of litter throughout the grasslands.**

**R914 Roscommon Approach Road: Grade A.** Road surface and markings were in good order and the overall impression was a good one with regard to litter.

**Fairlands - residential: Grade A.** (beside Mulligan's Londis) All aspects of this residential area were in good order. Grass area and young trees were attractive features. A clean and tidy impression prevailed throughout.

**R446 to Tuam, Old Galway Road: Grade C.** It wasn't just the litter at the boarded-up bungalow which brought down the litter grade – there was a very definite litter presence along the grass. This was both food and alcohol related. Discarded promotional banners (at the base of a large billboard) also created a poor impression.

**Athlone Cathedral: Grade B+.** A well presented and fresh environment, which just missed getting the top litter grade. With a little extra care and attention this could easily be achieved.

**Main Street: Grade A.** Attractive paving, street signage, ornamental trees, planter boxes etc. created a very fresh impression. Many of the premises were brightly painted. The Main Street was excellent with regard to litter.

**Dean Kelly National School: Grade B+.** Almost a top-ranking site – some minor litter took away from an otherwise well presented environment. Attractive planting created a lovely impression.

**Recycle Bank at Grade Park Road at Fair green Car Park: Grade B.** The recycle units were dirty and stained, badly in need of a good cleaning. The main litter items in the immediate vicinity were cans, sweet papers, cigarette butts and broken glass.

**Retreat Avenue: Grade A.** Road surface and markings created a fresh impression along this residential road. The overall impression was a good one with regard to litter.

**R362 Tuam Approach Road: Grade B+.** This route presents well but was let down by too many pieces of loose litter scattered about – PPE gloves, sweet papers and plastic / glass bottles. Not much effort is required for this to be a top-ranking site.

**The Batteries - Park / Playground: Grade D.** The overall impression created at this expanse of parkland was a very poor one. There were heavy levels of all manner of food related litter throughout the grass area of this park. The problem was made worse by birds scavenging. Playground equipment was in good order but a large quantity of 'lotto' slips were strewn about the playground. The large grey ESB box was covered in graffiti.