

## An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 2, 2020

**Fermoy: 6<sup>th</sup> out of 37 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.**

**Another top result for Fermoy.** The three approach roads were all top-ranking, creating a positive first impression of this town – this high standard was sustained for over half the sites, with three sites just missing the top grade. Fermoy Town Park was not just good with regard to litter but a very well presented and maintained environment. Abbey Street presented well with paving and painted buildings creating a positive impression. Mart Car Park was by far the most heavily littered site in Fermoy – not just casual litter but discarded shopping trolleys and general debris.

**Dublin Road approach: Grade A.** While beyond the range of approach roads for the purpose of IBAL survey, it is worth noting that the roundabout at Junction 14 off the M8 was an exceptionally well presented environment. The survey area close to the town was very good with regard to litter and created a positive first impression of the town – this high standard was maintained for over half of the sites surveyed in Fermoy.

**Pike Road Approach: Grade A.** While Pike Road got the top litter grade, care needs to be taken at the temporary fences to ensure that it doesn't become a littered one. There was a virtual absence of litter.

**Car Park at Aldi: Grade B+.** A very freshly presented and maintained car park environment which just missed getting the top litter grade. With a little extra care this could easily be achieved.

**Fermoy Town Park: Grade A.** A consistently top-ranking site, things were no different this time around at Fermoy Town Park. It was exceptionally well presented and maintained with all aspects in very good order e.g., grass areas, planting, seating and railings.

**McCurtain Street: Grade B+.** Attractive paving and wooden planter boxes look well along McCurtain Street. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the vacant / poorly maintained premises as there was no litter directly associated with them. The most obvious litter item was chewing gum with lower levels of coffee cups, plastic bottles, sweet papers and PPE equipment. Signage on street bin: *'Bin it, Keep Fermoy a Clean Town #Stand Firm Against Litter'*.

**Beechfield: Grade A.** There was a virtual absence of litter at this residential area. It has been enhanced with plenty of planting / shrubbery. Some of the litter awareness notice regarding cigarette butts and dog fouling is obscured by shrubbery.

**Abbey Street: Grade A.** The fresh-looking paving creates a good impression along this interconnecting laneway. It is further enhanced by some brightly painted premises. There were no litter issues along Abbey Street.

**Patrick Street: Grade B+.** The streetscape presented very well with nice paving and wooden planter boxes replete with green, white and red planting. Most of Patrick Street was good with regard to litter but it was brought down by noticeable amounts between the square and Kent Street – main items were food related e.g., plastic bottles, coffee cups, fast-food wrappers.

**Mart Car Park: Grade C.** This whole site presents very poorly, quite an anomaly with Fermoy. What looks like temporary fencing is clearly no longer temporary as it has been there for years – with heavy accumulations of a wide variety of litter at its base. Recycle Facility was in poor shape and there were a couple of abandoned supermarket trolleys within the car park. The signage *'CCTV in use in this area to detect fly tipping and rubbish dumping'* is clearly being ignored and not enough of an incentive to deter such activity. Where does responsibility for this site lie?

**R666 Rathealy Approach Road: Grade A.** There were no litter issues of note along this road leading into Fermoy.