

## An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 1, 2021

**Ballina: 13<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities. Clean to European Norms.**

**A very good result for Ballina with no seriously littered sites. Examples of the top-ranking sites included Tom Ruane Park and Playground and Jackie Clarke Collection Garden – they were both very well presented and maintained with lovely natural play equipment in the park and attractive planting in the Jackie Clarke Collection Garden. The Bring Centre at Dunnes Stores was also an excellent site - it is great to see a Bring Centre so well maintained. Some sites within Ballina just missed getting the top litter grade e.g., Church Road approach, Humber Street and Lower Bridge Walk – with a little extra effort this could easily be achieved.**

**Church Road Approach: Grade B+.** This route just missed getting the top litter grade. Various food related items took away from an otherwise well presented and maintained environment.

**Lower Bridge Walk: Grade B+ (from Ham Bridge to Salmon Weir).** An attractive riverside environment with paving, seating, planting in good order. Signage for 'Salmon Weir Restoration Project Heritage Award 2011' was proudly displayed. Not much effort is required for this site to get the top litter grade.

**R294 Bonniconlon Approach Road: Grade B.** (from speed limit sign in to junction at Abbeyhalfquarter). Road surface, markings, signage and bicycle path were in good order. Much of the road was clear of litter but there was a noticeable presence close to the golf shop and at a vacant site – the latter was very heavily weeded and presented poorly. The main litter items were fast-food wrappers, plastic bags and cardboard.

**Tom Ruane Park and Playground: Grade A.** An extensive park environment which was very much deserving of the top litter grade. Much of the park was in good order but there was graffiti on the bins and some of the blue wooden seating was worn and badly in need of a coat of paint. The play equipment was of a lovely natural wooden style.

**N59 Sligo Road Approach: Grade A.** A clean and tidy impression was created along this route. Clearly a careful is kept on the vacant site as there was no litter directly associated with it despite long grass growth and presenting poorly.

**Bring Facility, Dunnes Stores: Grade A.** There were virtually no litter issues at this facility. It presented well, just one bin container was beginning to split at the base.

**Market Square Car Park, at Penneys: Grade A.** All was in good order at this town centre car park. Ornamental trees added some welcome greenery in a car park environment. Some of the car park markings were worn away. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

**Pearse Street – O'Rahilly Street: Grade B.** Casually discarded food related items, cigarette butts and cardboard boxes took away from an otherwise well presented streetscape. Ornamental trees, street bins, bollards, paving, colourful flower boxes, seating, bicycle parking etc. were all in very good condition.

**Jackie Clarke Collection Garden: Grade A.** A beautifully laid out garden environment in the centre of the town. All aspects were in excellent condition and there was a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed. Attractive landscaping, very good information signage, 'buddy bench' all contributed to a welcoming atmosphere.

**Humbert Street: Grade B+.** The majority of this residential area presented very well with all properties well maintained with freshly presented gardens and wooden seating in attractively paved area. The small laneway was not as freshly presented and heavily weeded. With a little extra care and the use of the bin provided this could easily be a top-ranking site.