

Buncrana: 21st out 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

A good showing from the Donegal town in high season. 'Mini Bee Gardens' were very much a feature at some of the survey sites within Buncrana e.g., Upper Main Street, Buncrana GAA and the Tourist Office - a lovely feature and some wonderful planting associated with them. Inishowen Tourist Office grounds were very welcoming and Upper Main Street was attractively presented, with all aspects in good condition. One of the most heavily littered sites was the Bring Centre at SuperValu – it wasn't just casually littered but bedding / clothing had been discarded. A second poor site was Miscellaneous Laneway between Ardaravan Centre and Brennan's Pharmacy: (shopping centre, Dr Denis McLaughlin Road) – it very heavily littered.

Railway Road Approach: Grade B+. An attractive and well maintained approach with colourful planting and 'Welcome to Buncrana' feature at the roundabout. It looked great. Most of the road was excellent with regard to litter but there was a definite dog fouling issue along one stretch, close to the green signage bollard. Perhaps the installation of dog fouling notices would help here?

Strand Court: Grade A. Colourful low-lying shrubbery along the paving was a lovely feature at this residential development. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

Inishowen Tourist Office: Grade A. All was in good order outside this tourist facility. 'Buncrana Heritage Trail' map / visitor information was in good condition and 'Mini Bee Garden' planter box at the front of the building was bright and colourful, along with the associated signage and information. Other planting looked well. It was excellent with regard to litter.

Muff Approach Road: Grade B+. Much of the route was a clean and tidy one but there was a small, recessed area where there were food related items.

Mulberry Avenue: Grade A. There was an absence of litter along the road and the communal grass area of this residential development.

Milltown Approach Road: Grade A. There was virtually no litter along this road which passes through residential and farmland.

Miscellaneous Laneway between Ardaravan Centre and Brennan's Pharmacy: (shopping centre, Dr Denis McLaughlin Road) Grade C. The main area of the shopping centre was generally clean and tidy but this laneway, behind a blue gate was heavily littered, with all manner of food related litter and other miscellaneous items. Where does responsibility for this site lie? It is in sharp contrast to the presentation of the surrounding environment.

Buncrana GAA Grounds: Grade B+. It was great to see the 'Mini Bee Garden' at the entrance to this facility. Much of the area was clean but there were simply too many food related items, some clothing and cigarette butts – for the top litter grade.

Upper Main Street: Grade A. Colourful planting, hanging baskets, street lamps, litter bins and paving presented well along this shopping street. There was plenty of opportunity for 'outdoor dining' but there was no litter directly associated with these areas. A boarded-up site was brightly painted with a 'natural' theme running through the mural e.g., bees and butterflies and some of the seating had been adorned with yellow floral features.

Bring Centre at SuperValu: Grade C. This wasn't just a casually littered site, but bedding / clothing/ shopping trolley and cardboard boxes had been discarded. The overall impression was a poor one. The 'CCTV in Operation – Be Aware' notice is clearly not having the desired effect.