

Carlow: 9th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

With no heavily littered sites, this was a remarkable turnaround for Carlow after some poor results in past surveys. All three approach roads got the top litter grade, creating a very good first impression of Carlow – they were enhanced by floral displays at the roundabouts. This high standard was maintained for several other sites e.g. residential area of Sycamore Road, Four Lakes Retail Park and Potato Market – the latter was an attractively laid out town centre environment with paving, visitor information and tree planting in good order. Car parking & surrounds at Mr Price Branded Bargains was somewhat improved on previous IBAL visits but was still a moderately littered site.

Sycamore Road: Grade A. The overall impression created at this residential area was an excellent one with regard to litter and overall maintenance. There was a complete absence of litter throughout.

The Liberty Tree: Grade B+. This attractively presented public area with seating and fountain just missed getting the top litter grade. Cigarette butts were particularly pronounced and there was food related litter in the water feature. Planting, paving, street bins etc. were in good order.

N80 Portlaoise Approach Road: Grade A. A clean and tidy impression was created along this route. Road surface, markings and signage were in very good order. Attractive planting at roundabout was a welcoming feature.

R448 Dublin Approach: Grade A. There were no visible litter issues along this route. Grass verges were neatly cut and there was a nice use of floral displays at Deerpark Roundabout. 'Tidy Towns' winner signage was proudly displayed.

Four Lakes Retail Park: Grade A. An exceptionally freshly presented and maintained environment. Car park surface, markings and signage were in very good condition and shrubbery / planted areas were well maintained. The recycle facility has been removed since this site was last included in IBAL survey.

Bring Centre at Askea Church Car Park: Grade B+. A much improved site compared to previous IBAL surveys. This time around there were minor items, mostly lids / caps and cigarette butts, the volume was such that it just missed the top litter grade. The overall presentation was good with the bin units and signage freshly presented.

Enniscorthy Approach Road: Grade A. As with the other approach roads, this was a top-ranking site. It was clean and welcoming with freshly cut grass verges and floral displays at the roundabouts.

Tullow Street: Grade A. Tullow Street was deserving of the top litter grade and certainly much cleaner than IBAL 2020 visit. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout. A former derelict site is being addressed. While there were several other derelict / vacant / closed down premises, they didn't impact negatively on the litter situation. The paving, seating, street bins and overall streetscape was excellent along part of Tullow Street but not all of it.

Car parking & surrounds at Mr Price Branded Bargains: Grade B. A notably improved site compared to previous IBAL visit when this was a Grade D site. The background environmental indicators were still poor e.g., peeling paint, significant graffiti etc but this time the litter appeared to be 'recent' rather than the 'long-lie' problem which existed before. Main litter items were food related and cigarette butts.

Potato Market: Grade A. The overall impression created at this town centre environment was a good one with regard to litter. Tourist information, tree planting, paving etc. were well maintained.