

**Drogheda: 38<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Heavily Littered.**

The combination of just three top ranking sites and three very heavily littered sites has impacted significantly on Drogheda's overall ranking, making it the most littered of any town surveyed. It would seem that the Bring Centre / Recycle Facilities in Drogheda require better management – both the Bring Centre at Palace Streetcar Park and on Trinity Street were in a very poor state, the latter showing no improvement on 2020. The third poor site was Laneway at the rear of Moneymore residential – it wasn't just littered but sacks of rubbish had been discarded, the contents of which were strewn about. The town centre streets generally presented well with plenty of colourful planting and good streetscape e.g. Shop Street, West Street and Westgate Street.

**'Bring Centre' at Palace Street Car Park: Grade D.** The bottle / can units presented well at this facility, but the remainder of the site was very poor. Items were tumbling out of the clothing bank. The ground at the base of the bottle / cans was strewn with litter – the whole area presented very poorly. Items had been stuffed beneath, between and behind the units.

**N51 Approach: Grade C+.** (From Roundabout at Collon to Roundabout at R132). There were a few reasons for this poor litter grade. Long lie litter items were found in the hedges at the Hill of Rath Roundabout and at an 'improvised' parking area on the side of the road – the majority of these litter items were food related.

**Mayfield: Grade B+.** The residential area of 'Mayfield' just missed getting the top litter grade. Face-masks and food related items took away from an otherwise well presented and maintained environment.

**Laneway at the rear of Moneymore residential: Grade D.** This area has been subject to long-term abuse and neglect. It wasn't just casually littered but subject to dumping. Bags of rubbish had been ripped apart, the contents of which were strewn about. There appears to be CCTV in the area, but no obvious 'anti-dumping' signage.

**Ballymakenny Approach Road: Grade B.** This was a mixed site in terms of litter. Some parts were generally clear but there was a definite presence (both long-lie and recent) at various bus stops along the road. The road works didn't appear to be impacting in any negative way on the litter situation.

**Recycle Facility on Trinity Street: Grade D.** This site shows no improvement on previous IBAL visits. Bags and black sacks of rubbish had been discarded at the facility, the contents of which were strewn about the ground. The 'Do not leave your household rubbish here' signage has been flagrantly ignored.

**St. Lawrencegate Street: Grade C+.** Historical information with illustration presented well, along with colourful hanging baskets in the immediate environment of this significant building. However, the same care and level of attention doesn't appear to pertain throughout the street - there was a significant build-up of a wide variety of litter in the basements of some of the properties. The majority of the litter was food and alcohol related.

**Shop Street: Grade A.** Abundant and colourful flower boxes and hanging baskets looked very well. Street signage, litter bins and bollards were in good order. There was a virtual absence of litter along Shop Street.

**Vacant / Derelict buildings on Westgate Street: Grade A.** While there were several vacant / derelict buildings along Westgate Street, their impact was somewhat ameliorated by the presence of the attractive paving – the latter created a very fresh impression, with steel bollards and bright hanging baskets adding to the overall impression. Graffiti was a feature on some premises. Some towns have painted 'faux facades' on vacant buildings to great effect and it certainly takes away from the 'bare look' of such properties.

**West Street: Grade A.** West Street presented very well with attractive paving, abundant flower displays, street bins, seating and signage all in very good order. Visitor information signage presented well. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.