

Ennis: 3rd out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

Another excellent showing for Ennis, cementing its position among the cleanest towns in the country. There were no heavily littered sites. There was plenty of repaving of the town centre sites (e.g., Parnell Street, see below), including many of the laneways off the main shopping streets – these laneways looked great. Despite ‘works’ taking place at Tim Smythe Park and Abbey Street Car Park, they didn’t impact in any negative way on the litter situation – these sites were particularly freshly presented and maintained. Top-ranking sites included Clare Museum environs and Abbey Street – both were spotless.

R458 from direction of Clareabbey Roundabout: Grade A. The overall impression created along this route into Ennis was a good one, with a virtual absence of litter. It wasn’t without derelict / boarded up properties, particularly on the right hand side.

Gort Road Approach: Grade A. There was plenty of low-lying planting which added a splash of colour along this route. There were no visible litter issues throughout.

Gort Road Business Park: Grade B. As with previous IBAL visits, the majority of this large business park presented well but it is still let down by two isolated areas. An area to the rear had an air of neglect, with some industrial plastic wrapping and other litter trapped in the high grass. An area at the front of the business park remains littered and neglected – this is in sharp contrast to the rest of the business park.

Tim Smythe Park: Grade A. Building works within the park didn’t impact in any negative way on the litter situation – it was spotless throughout. All aspects of the park were in very good condition e.g., play ground equipment, signage, litter bins, picnic tables, PE equipment etc. – clearly, it is a very well maintained and respected environment.

Abbey Street Car Park: Grade A. This wasn’t just a car park but a feature within the town. There were plenty of ornamental trees, colourful planting, seating areas, visitor information notices etc. – there was a complete absence of litter throughout, including the area where ‘works’ were taking place.

Parnell Street: Grade A. Colourful hanging baskets in ‘old style’ street features looked very well. Much of the street has been pedestrianised and repaved – this stretch looked particularly fresh. There were many closed down / vacant sites but there was no litter directly associated with them. Bar one or two, little was done to minimise the visual impact of these premises.

R459 Quin Road Approach: Grade B. Much of the litter along this road wasn’t visible to the passing car as it was on the ‘raised’ and hidden footpath, where there was a very definite litter presence. Much of it was food related, along with alcohol cans.

Ennis Bus & Train Station: Grade A. The entrance to the train station was particularly freshly presented and the shrubbery to the rear of the car park was in good order. Visitor information notice board was an attractive feature. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout the bus / train station.

Clare Museum Environs: Grade A. This was an excellent site. The front of the main museum entrance looked very well with paving, planting, bicycle parking, sculpture features etc. were in excellent order. There was a fenced area, just across from the entrance, which could easily become a magnet for litter, but hasn’t.

Abbey Street: Grade A. Abbey Street was exceptionally clean.