

Fermoy: 7th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

Fermoy has again delivered the first-class showing we have come to expect. Based on the window display at 'Munster House' (Patrick Street), there is clearly a very strong emphasis on litter and the environment, where many awards and campaigns have been displayed. There was plenty of new 'Keep Fermoy Tidy' signage throughout the town and the facility for the disposal of compostable cups is a great one. Top-ranking sites included the River Walk, Patrick Street, all the approach roads and Fermoy Town Park – the latter was particularly clean and tidily maintained. It is one of the few places which actually acknowledges that cigarette butts and dog fouling are litter. By far the most heavily littered site was a miscellaneous site along R639 – it is across the road from the IDA site and car dealership – as well as the casual discarding of food related litter, miscellaneous items were building up over the low wall.

Fermoy Town Park: Grade A. This lovely town park environment is usually a very clean site and things were no different this time around. It was spotless throughout, and the 'Managed for Wildlife' area was suitably maintained. Even the grass cutting was completed with an attractive pattern.

Patrick Street: Grade A. An excellent site in terms of overall presentation and litter. There was plenty of colourful planting and outdoor dining areas looked well – there was no litter associated with any outdoor dining. Dedicated cigarette butt / chewing gum units are clearly being used, based on the fact that one was virtually overflowing.

N72 Dungarvan Approach Road: Grade A. Not only was this route into Fermoy very good with regard to litter but care has been taken with the overall presentation – e.g., large planter boxes have been installed at a recessed area which might otherwise be subject to littering and one of the supermarkets has its name sculpted within the hedges / shrubbery area.

Bring Facility, Mart Car Park: Grade B. The Mart Car Park was getting plenty of use due to the 'free parking' which was widespread throughout the town of Fermoy. The Bring Facility was not as poor as previous years, but items had been stuffed between the bottle / can units and to the rear of the clothing units.

R639 Approach Road: Grade A. (from direction of M9, Junction 14). A clean and welcoming impression was created along this route with attractive planting and good road surface, markings and signage. See separate site which was in a poor state.

Miscellaneous site on R639: Grade C. (on the left hand side coming into Fermoy, nearly opposite the IDA and the car dealership). This large site wasn't just casually littered but other miscellaneous items had been thrown over the low wall. If not addressed, this will only deteriorate further, as so easily happens to sites like this.

Riverwalk: Grade A. The area surveyed included O'Neill Crowley Quay / Thomas Ashe Quay / Barnane Walk and Picnic area on other side of the river. The Picnic Area looked well, with one part devoted to 'Managed for Wildlife'. The built environment along the quays was excellent with paving, bollards, street bins, life-belts, seating, picnic tables etc. in very good order (except O'Neill Crowley signage which was virtually illegible). A lovely riverside environment, with a virtual absence of litter throughout.

R639 Rathcormack Approach Road: Grade A. There were no visible litter issues along this route. Closer to the town there was some planting which was in good order.

Library Car Park: Grade A. Area surveyed included the main car park and overflow car park up the steps. The Library was closed due to renovation works but the car park was practically full due to the free car parking initiative to encourage shopping in the town. It was very good with regard to litter.

McCurtain Street: Grade A. The free-standing cigarette butt / chewing gum units appear to be very effective along McCurtain and Patrick Street. Like many shopping streets throughout the country there were some vacant / closed down outlets but there was no litter associated with them. The overall impression created along McCurtain Street was a very clean one.