

An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 1, 2021

Naas: 8th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

Naas was a top ten performer when last included in the IBAL league and on its return it has maintained this high standard. There were many top-ranking sites, including the Blessington and Newbridge Approach Roads, Poplar Square, The Well Lane Walk & Park and North Main Street. What sets these and other top-ranking sites apart is not just the lack of litter but the overall presentation and maintenance of same. By far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Naas was The Bring Centre at Fair Green – it wasn't just casually littered but black sacks had been abandoned in front of the units.

R410 Blessington Approach Road: Grade A. A very neat and tidy route, creating a positive first impression of Naas. It was immaculate throughout. This very high standard was maintained for many of the remaining sites surveyed.

R447 Newbridge Approach Road: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along this route. Colourful hanging baskets along the railings at a junction were an attractive feature.

The Harbour View: Grade B. This waterside environment was quite good but let down by alcohol related litter, both bottle and cans. Both of these items can very easily be recycled. A fenced off area close-by has the potential to become littered but clearly a careful eye is kept on it. Marine themed wall murals take away the bare look of another surface. Seating and bollards were in good order.

The Well Lane Walk and Park: Grade A. Visitor information signage presented well, and the overall impression created at this park environment was a good one with regard to litter. A black and green wooden seat presented poorly, much of the paint was worn away. Perhaps a greater emphasis could be given to providing dog fouling signage / facilities?

Ballymore Approach Road: Grade A. There were no visible litter issues along this route. Bollards and paving were in good order.

Bring Centre, Fair Green: Grade C. As well as loose litter within the immediate vicinity of the Bring Centre, there were some discarded black sacks to the front of the units.

Derelict Building, Fairgreen Street: Grade A. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the long abandoned premises as there was no litter directly associated with it. It does present very poorly and take away from the overall streetscape.

Poplar Square: Grade A. The reconfiguration of this environment has resulted in a lovely outdoor space with seating, dining, colourful planting, paving, bollards etc. in very good condition. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

North Main Street: Grade A. Apart from some face-masks and cigarette butts, this was a very clean environment. Outdoor dining area was adorned with colourful flower boxes.

Moat Mall: Grade A. This outdoor shopping mall was excellent with regard to litter. Colourful planting was a welcome addition to the built environment.