

**Portlaoise: 1<sup>st</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.**

Portlaoise has built on years of concerted effort and steady improvement to top the IBAL table for the first time. With so many top-ranking sites, there are a few which deserve a special mention. Fitzmaurice Place - formerly an amphitheatre - has now been transformed into a beautiful green space with lovely seating, grass area and planting. The Main Street and Church Street were both excellent in terms of streetscape and litter. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the Derelict Sites on Pepper Lane – while they presented poorly, there was no litter directly associated with them. The moderately littered area to the rear of the library was the only blemish in the town.

**R426 Timahoe Approach: Grade A.** A clean and tidy impression was created along this route with road surface, markings and signage in good order. This high standard was maintained for almost all of the remaining sites surveyed in Portlaoise.

**R445 Ballydavis Approach Road: Grade A.** There was a virtual absence of litter along this well-presented route. Road surface, markings and signage were in good order.

**Market Square: Grade A.** An attractively presented town centre environment with lovely paving, colourful planting and wooden picnic tables. There was some very fresh looking bicycle parking.

**Main Street: Grade A.** The Main Street was almost entirely litter free, just some very minor items. Paving, bollards, flower boxes and overall streetscape were in good order.

**Church Street: Grade A.** A clean and tidy impression was created along Church Street. The road surface and markings were particularly fresh and paving area was enhanced by some colourful planting.

**Portlaoise Train Station – Exterior: Grade A.** This site got the top litter grade, but only just. Perhaps the installation of litter awareness notices could create an awareness of same?

**Portlaoise Train Station – Interior: Grade A.** As with the Exterior of the Train Station, this too just reached the top litter grade. There was a virtual absence of litter within the interior and the station platforms. Cigarette butts were most obvious.

**Fitzmaurice Public green space: Grade A.** What a transformation compared to a few years ago. This is now a beautifully laid out park space with abundant planting – it was a lovely environment and excellent with regard to litter.

**Pepper Lane – derelict sites: Grade A.** There were a number of derelict sites along Pepper Lane, presenting quite a poor impression. Some were in better state than others. Clearly a careful eye is kept on them as they didn't impact negatively on the litter situation.

**Miscellaneous Site, rear of Library: Grade B.** There was a small improvement from IBAL 2020 visit but it still presents poorly - heavily weeded and somewhat littered.