

**Arklow: 5<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms**

**Another excellent result for Arklow, with well over half of the sites surveyed getting the top litter grade, and no seriously littered sites. The Main Street presented particularly well, especially considering the high number of closed down / For Sale / To Let premises. The Bring Facility at Croghan Recycle Centre was spotless – clearly it is a very well respected and maintained environment. Other top-ranking sites included Avoca Riverwalk and Arklow Sports & Leisure Centre – the building of the latter was adorned by colourful murals, a welcome feature in what would otherwise be a very grey environment.**

**R772, Dublin direction: Grade A.** An excellent first impression of Arklow town, with a strong marine theme at 'Welcome to Arklow' display. This area was enhanced by colourful planting and all features were in very good order. The road was spotless.

**Car Park at Aldi: Grade A.** A very clean and tidy impression was created at this environment. The car park surface was clear of litter and the flower beds surrounding the perimeter were spotless.

**R772 Gorey direction: Grade B+.** Much of this road presented well but there were too many random pieces of food and alcohol related litter, combined with industrial plastic for the top litter grade. The large 'anchor' appeared freshly painted and well cared for.

**Main Street: Grade A.** Despite the very high prevalence of closed down / For Sale / To Let premises, the Main Street scored very well. It is clear that a very careful eye is kept on these premises as they could easily become a magnet for litter. The 'on-street' dining facility looked well, and the small park was spotless.

**Bring Facility at Croghan Recycle Centre: Grade A.** This was an excellent site previously and things were no different this time around. It was exceptionally clean and well presented with a complete absence of litter throughout. The 'planter' boxes at the entrance were made from 'recycled plastic', a fitting feature for a recycle facility!

**Lower Main Street: Grade B.** The overall impression along Lower Main Street was of an obvious litter presence – the main items were food / alcohol related, along with dog fouling and cigarette butts.

**Courthouse Building and Environs: Grade B+.** The area inside the gates was lightly littered but it was the litter directly outside, beneath the seating, in the planted areas and at the base of the signage which brought down the litter grade. The litter was not associated with the fenced off areas.

**Avoca Riverwalk: Grade A.** The overall impression created along this riverside environment was a positive one. A lovely feature is the 'Wall of Nature' a series of nature themed tiles, illustrated by children. The signage relating to the history of the bridge and the nature along the river were in good order. Apart from some occasional broken glass and cigarette butts, this was an excellent site.

**Grounds of Arklow Sports & Leisure Centre: Grade A.** Street art / murals were very much a feature of the main building and certainly add some welcome colour to what would otherwise be a rather grey environment. Apart from the art / murals on the buildings, there was a very definite graffiti presence on some surfaces e.g., signage. A lovely feature of this facility was the 'Arklow Mini Library', with a 'Bring a Book, Borrow a Book' sign. It was great to see the opportunity to separate 'pizza boxes' with the provision of 'pizza box' only bin.

**Coastguard Road approach: Grade A.** A clean and welcoming impression was created along this somewhat more rural route. There were no obvious litter items. Attractive low-lying planting on the left side looked well, as did the small green area with seating.