

**Ballina: 19<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms**

**A good performance for Ballina, with seven out of the ten sites surveyed getting the top litter grade. Some examples of these included St. Patrick's Well / Memorial, the residential area at The Spires, Dunnes Stores / Ballina Shopping Centre and various approach roads. By far the most heavily littered site was the Clothing Recycle Facility at Cost Cutter, Killala Road – it was subject to dumping. Pearse St was also heavily littered.**

**The Spires: Grade A.** A very freshy presented and well-maintained residential environment with a virtual absence of litter throughout. Communal grass areas were in good order and the overall impression created here was a very positive one.

**Killala Road: Grade A.** Road surface, markings and signage were in good order and the overall impression was quite a good one. Care needs to be taken at the couple of apparently closed down / vacant premises that they don't become a magnet for litter, as can so easily happen.

**St. Patrick's Well / Memorial: Grade A.** A small but clean and very well maintained site with a complete absence of litter throughout. All elements were in very good order, except for a broken entrance gate which was hanging off a broken support wall. This is likely to deteriorate if not addressed.

**Clothing Recycle Facility at Cost Cutter Shop, Killala Road: Grade D.** The red bin units were freshly presented but the immediate environs were in a very poor state. As well as some bags of items at the base of the bin units there were heavy levels of a wide variety of litter right beside the units. Discarded items included a suitcase and various other miscellaneous items. The adjoining site was not in good shape either.

**St. Patrick's Church: Grade B+.** There was building work taking place at this site but the litter wasn't directly beside the building works. Items of litter scattered on the grass included face-masks, plastic bags, fast-food wrappers and sweet papers. The litter took away from an otherwise very well presented and maintained environment.

**St. Dymphna's School and St. Nicholas School: Grade A.** The school grounds were very much deserving of the top litter grade. A credit to the pupils, staff and those responsible for the maintenance of same.

**Crossmolina Approach Road: Grade A.** The sculpture and very freshly presented Gurteens Roundabout create a great first impression of Ballina. Paving appeared new and very clean. Road surface and markings were in excellent condition. There was a virtual absence of litter along this route.

**Foxford Approach Road: Grade A.** Not only was this road very good with regard to litter but the overall presentation of the properties was great as well. There were no litter issues of note.

**Dunnes Stores / Ballina Shopping Centre: Grade A.** The 'Ballina Shopping Centre' bins were in very good condition, closed, small aperture and freshly presented. Clearly the shopping centre staff are very attentive as there was a complete absence of litter throughout.

**Pearse Street: Grade C.** A very disappointing grade for a main shopping street. The majority of the litter was food related (fast-food wrappers, coffee cups, cans, coffee cups etc) and was located at various seating areas, most pronounced outside Costa Coffee. This all took away from an otherwise attractive streetscape – paving, 'olde' style lamp-posts, ornamental trees, seating, bollards etc. The lower end of the street was less littered, close to the junction with Humbert Street.