

Carlow: 23rd out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered

Carlow has slipped from an excellent showing earlier in 2021. While there were no very heavily littered sites, it was the dearth of top-ranking sites (just three) which prevents it from climbing higher in the league. If some of the moderately littered sites could shift upwards, it could make a difference on Carlow's overall ranking – e.g., Lidl, R488 to Deerpark Roundabout, Potato Market and Tullow Street. Heavily littered sites included Recycle Bring Bank (Askea Church Car Park), Car Parking at Penny Lane and Car Park & Surrounds at Mr Price.

Lidl: Grade B+. A freshly presented environment with attractive red brickwork, low lying planting and clean car parking area. If it wasn't for the food related items (coffee cups, mineral cans and sweet papers) close to a loading area this would have been a top-ranking site.

Highfield: Grade A. There was a complete absence of litter throughout this residential area. Planting and communal grass areas were good order, and the overall impression was of a well cared for and well respected environment.

R488 to Deerpark Roundabout: Grade B+. This could easily be a top-ranking site with a little extra care and attention. Road surface, markings, bollards and signage were in good condition and grass verges had recently been cut. Scatterings of food related litter took away from an otherwise well presented road.

Recycle Bring Bank - Askea Church Car Park: Grade C+. Superficially, this looks like a reasonably clean site. Further exploration reveals a certain amount of discarded items behind / between the recycle units, e.g., cardboard boxes, plastic bags. A more thorough approach to the emptying / cleaning of this facility is required to address this.

Car Parking at Penny Lane: Grade C. (area at Home Savers and Tullow Street Car Park). This site presented poorly with heavy levels of a wide variety of litter. There was significant litter at both at 'Home Savers' and at Tullow Street Car Park, at the back of the shopping centre. It had the appearance of lacking comprehensive cleaning for quite some time. There were no visible litter bins or litter awareness notices in the area surveyed. The torn posters on the large billboard certainly didn't help the overall appearance and the broken wood at the base of same needs attention

Tullow Street: Grade B. There was no one identifiable location of litter along Tullow Street, simply an obvious presence of same. Face-masks, cigarette butts and chewing gum were the most prevalent with lower levels of mineral cans, sweet wrappers and plastic bottles.

Potato Market: Grade B. Much of the litter was food related and located at the outdoor dining areas.

N80 Portlaoise Approach Road: Grade A. An excellent route in terms of overall presentation and maintenance. There were no visible litter issues throughout.

Car Park & Surrounds at Mr Price: Grade C+. This area still presents poorly and was littered, all be it perhaps not quite as heavily littered as previous IBAL surveys. Litter was mostly within the car parking area and at the building entrance. The wooden pallets were very exposed and accessible to the public i.e. right beside the parking and wheely bins.

Castlecomer Approach Road: Grade A. A freshly presented and clean and tidy route with clean pavements, kerbs, cycle lanes and roadsides. Grass verges were well maintained.