

Ennis: 3rd out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms

It is only fitting that the 2021 Tidy Town winner should score so well in the IBAL litter league. It is particularly encouraging that a site which had been seriously littered over the last number of IBAL surveys was now deemed top-ranking – Gort Road Business Park. Tim Smythe Park has been very much deserving of a the top litter grade for the last number of years and this time around the park environment has been further enhanced by the provision of newly unveiled 'Dressing Rooms'. Other top ranking sites included O'Connell Street, Ennis Courthouse and Ennis Recycle Facility – the latter is a 'managed' facility and certainly the staff deserve special mention as it was so well maintained. This is not always the case in other 'managed' facilities throughout the country.

R458 Approach from Clareabbey Roundabout: Grade A. Welcoming signage created a positive first impression along this main approach route into Ennis. There were a few boarded up houses on the right-hand side but clearly a careful eye is kept on them as there was no obvious litter associated with them. There was a virtual absence of litter along this route.

R474 Approach from Kilrush Road Roundabout: Grade A. This road passes through a mix of industrial, commercial and residential. It was an excellent route in terms of overall presentation and litter – it was exceptionally clean.

Quin Road Approach: Grade A. A clean and tidy impression was created along this route – both the main footpath and the raised pedestrian pathway were in good order with regard to litter.

Gort Road Business Park: Grade A. (including Ennis Enterprise Centre). There was a notable improvement at this site which had been littered the last number of times it was included in IBAL litter surveys. A littered area to the front and at the rear no longer harboured litter accumulations. The main roadways / interconnecting roadways were spotless throughout.

Ennis Recycle Facility: Grade A. This 'managed' facility as particularly well presented and maintained – there were no obvious litter issues associated with it. It was a credit to the facility staff.

Tim Smythe Park: Grade A. The recently (October 2021) unveiled 'Dressing Rooms' have further enhanced the wonderful Tim Smythe Park. The park has been a top ranking site for a number of years and things were no different this time around. All aspects within the park environment were in very good order e.g., artificial pitch / court, playing fields, play grounds, tree planting (with Tidy Towns signage), outdoor PE equipment, litter bins, seating etc. It was noted that graffiti was very much a feature on various surfaces e.g., signage and litter bins.

Ennis Courthouse Environs: Grade A. There was a complete absence of litter in the immediate environs of the courthouse and the grass area with Eamon de Valera to the front – all aspects were in very good condition.

Ennis Bus & Train Station: Grade B. The main litter items within the station grounds were food related (e.g., coffee cups, plastic bottles, mineral cans etc.) around the area of the bus stop and at the base of the shrubbery to the rear of the station. Cigarette butts were pronounced in the immediate area of the bus stop.

O'Connell Street: Grade A. As a main shopping street, O'Connell Street was exceptionally clean. It is well served by fresh looking litter bins.

Dunnes Stores Car Park: Grade B+. Overall, the car park was generally pretty clean, but it was impossible to ignore the disposable face-masks. There was minimal other litter.