

Fermoy: 7th out of 40 towns / cities. Cleaner than European Norms

A strong Tidy Towns presence is very evident in Fermoy and with it a concern and interest in litter. It is one of the few towns with notices reminding the public that dropping cigarette butts constitutes littering. The provision of cigarette butt / gum units on street poles and 'compostable' bin are initiatives which should be rolled out widely throughout the country. Seven out of ten sites got the top litter grade, with some of them deserving special mention. Fermoy Town Park was in superb condition, the Riverwalk was very much deserving of the top litter grade and Patrick Street was spotless. By far the most heavily littered site was the Mart Car Park – heavy levels of a wide variety of litter was trapped in low lying planting / weeds around the perimeter.

N72 Mallow Approach Road: Grade A. A very clean and tidy impression was created along this route. Road signage was in very good order.

Riverwalk: Grade A. A long stretch of riverside environment from Mill Island car Park to The Well. Attractive wooden path / decking along some parts. Seating, bins, signage, life belts etc were in very good order. Apart from some very occasional food related items, this was overall, very much deserving of the top litter grade.

R639 from M9 Motorway: Grade A. An excellent first impression of Fermoy from the motorway. Very fresh paving looked well, along with the bicycle path. Tidy Towns signage welcomes visitors. It was excellent with regard to litter.

Misc site on left on R639: (just past the IDA on the right): Grade A. This site had been seriously littered in a previous survey - not so this time around. It is currently under construction and has been cleaned up.

Waterford Approach Road: Grade A. A very good first impression of Fermoy - this high standard was sustained for well over half of the remaining sites surveyed. The Tidy Towns group have done great work taking away the 'bare look' on a somewhat abandoned site closer to the town on the right-hand side (just past Lidl). The large planter boxes are very welcome here. Attractive planting by supermarket on the opposite side of the road adds lots of greenery. It was a very clean and tidy road.

Mart Car Park: Grade C+. While the Bring Facility within this car park has frequently been cited as heavily littered in previous IBAL surveys, the actual car park itself was usually fairly well maintained - not so this time around. The main surface area of the car park was lightly littered but it was the substantial litter in the low-lying planting / weeds around the perimeter, especially on the right-hand side of the vehicular entrance, which brought down the litter grade.

Bring Facility at Mart Car Park: Grade B+. Frequently a littered site in previous IBAL surveys, this was in much better shape this time around. It wasn't so much that it was obviously littered, more so that the facility requires a more thorough approach to emptying / cleaning to remove various items behind / between the units.

Fermoy Town Park: Grade A. A very lovingly tended and respected town park environment. Some parts of the park have been 'managed for wildlife'. Area for biodiversity etc. appropriately maintained. Playground equipment was in vg order, some pieces of the PE equipment had graffiti.

Patrick Street: Grade A. High standards of previous IBAL surveys have been sustained. The presence of the stand-alone butt / gum units on the poles is one that could easily be rolled out in other towns / cities throughout the country. The Tidy Towns presence is very much felt and huge credit is due to them.

Mill Island Car Park: Grade B+. Attractive signage, Tidy Towns welcome feature create a positive first impression at this street level car park. Those necessary, but casually discarded, disposable face-masks were primarily responsible for this site not getting the top litter grade.