

Portlaoise: 2nd out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

A great performance by Portlaoise, which is just pipped into 2nd place in the IBAL league. All but 2 sites were top-ranking, and a few deserve a special mention. Market Square was a freshly presented town square environment with novel bicycle parking feature, colourful planting and stone seating. The Main Street was particularly clean. The recent reconfiguration of Fitzmaurice Place has resulted in a lovely outdoor public space which has been sensitively presented and maintained.

R922 Approach Road: Grade A. An attractive approach road, creating a positive first impression of Portlaoise. Only very minor litter items were to be seen along this stretch of road. Road surface and markings, pathway, grass areas etc. were in very good order.

Market Square: Grade A. A freshly presented town square environment which was excellent with regard to litter. Novel bicycle parking feature, colourful planting, stone seating and signage were in excellent order.

Main Street: Grade A. For a busy main shopping street, this has scored very well. There was minimal litter, just some occasional cigarette butts and sweet papers. Large street bins were in good order. A cluster of flower pots with abundant flowering looked great.

Derelict site by Multi Storey Car Park & Midlands Park: Grade A. Clearly a careful eye is kept on this two-storey boarded up property (with collapsed roof) as there was no litter directly associated with it.

Portlaoise Train Station – Exterior: Grade B+. The overall impression was generally a good one regarding litter, but it was impossible to ignore the gathering of supermarket trollies strewn about and less obvious were the cigarette butts and sweet papers. The building itself was beginning to show signs of age with peeling paint.

Portlaoise Train Station – Interior: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter within the station, at the waiting room and platform area. There were several litter bins within this area. The building itself was beginning to show signs of age with peeling paint and in need of freshening up.

Fitzmaurice Place: Grade A. This lovely outdoor green space has been beautifully presented and maintained. The wildlife friendly planting and artistic feature designed to commemorate Aviator Col James Fitzmaurice looked very well. All aspects of this lovely environment were in very good condition.

Pepper Lane: Grade B+. A much improved site, Pepper Lane no longer harbours heavy levels of litter. Minor levels of litter, along with miscellaneous discarded items and poor background environmental indicators prevented the top litter grade e.g., shopping trolley, graffiti and significant fly posting on a pole.

'Bring Facility' at Council Offices: Grade A. A very freshly presented 'bring facility' with the bin units in good order and no litter in the immediate environment. Signage relating to not leaving items on the ground if the units are full (as they were at time of visit) appear to be having desired effect.

R445 – to M7: Grade A. There were minor litter items long this route, not enough to bring down the grade. The overall impression was of a clean, tidy and well maintained environment.