

**Athlone: 4<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.**

**A superb performance by Athlone, and an improvement on last year, with almost all the sites surveyed getting the top litter grade. Examples included the approach roads, the Bus / Train Station (Exterior and Interior) and Count John McCormack Square – the latter was a particularly attractively presented environment, with a complete absence of litter throughout.**

**N55 Mullingar Approach Road: Grade A.** There was a virtual absence of litter along this freshly presented route. Road surface, markings and signage were in good order.

**Athlone Train / Bus Station – Exterior: Grade A.** The bus parking area was particularly freshly presented. The front of the 'olde' style train station looked very well with planter boxes, visitor information notices, paving, signage, seating etc. all in very good order.

**Athlone Train / Bus Station – Interior: Grade A.** The interior / waiting area of the station was in impeccable condition – spotless throughout.

**'Bring Facility' at John Paul Park: Grade B.** A small facility with the individual units freshly presented and in good condition. There was no way of ignoring a couple of rubbish / items placed neatly at the base of one of the units.

**Derelict site at Mardyke Street / by Sheraton's Hotel: Grade A.** Clearly a careful eye is kept on this site as there was very little litter directly associated with it. It presents poorly and will only deteriorate further if not addressed.

**'The Bawn': Grade A.** The birthplace of John Mc Cormack, this town centre feature was generally well presented and maintained. Some premises were not as fresh as others. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

**Count John McCormack Square: Grade A.** This was a far 'fresher' environment, with large statue and associated plinth and paving in very good condition. It was an exceptionally clean civic space with all aspects of the area surveyed in excellent order e.g., paving, planted areas, visitor information notices etc.

**St. Peter's Port: Grade A.** A lovely waterside amenity which was freshly presented and maintained, spotless throughout. Paving, street lamps, planted areas, etc. were in very good condition. The whole area was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

**St. Ruth's Park: Grade A.** There were no major litter issues of note along this mixed-use road. Street bin was in good order with clear dog fouling signage and facility for the disposal of cigarette butts on the top.

**R363 Tuam Approach Road: Grade A.** All appeared in good order along this freshly presented route. Road surface and markings were in good order.