

Ballinasloe: 24th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

A very strong performance by Ballinasloe, with just one seriously littered site at the Recycle Facility in Town Centre Car Park. The overall presentation of the Main Street was much improved e.g. attractive paving, ornamental trees, fresh street bins, wooden seating, bicycle parking, railing, bollards etc. and overall, it was very much deserving of the top litter grade. The grounds of Portiuncula Hospital and Fair Green were also in very good order. With a little extra care and attention, some of the moderately littered sites could be top ranking.

R358 to junction with R348: Grade A. A clean and tidy approach to Ballinasloe with virtually no litter throughout. The overall impression created along this route was a positive one, apart from large industrial wrapping trapped in a tree.

Ballinasloe Train Station: Grade B. The exterior of the station was freshly presented, and railings / parking spaces were brightly painted. This area and the station platforms were clear of litter, with low lying planting, seating, bins ('recycling waste only' signage) etc. in good order and lovely art murals along the railings. The litter grade was brought down by a lower area which was somewhat neglected and littered – this will only deteriorate if not addressed.

'The Fair Green': Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter at this large expanse of green space. The area has been enhanced with attractive picnic tables. The solar street bin was of the large, covered, pedal operated, CCTV monitored, and GPS tracked style.

Recycle Facility in town centre car park: Grade C. This was by far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Ballinasloe. The overall impression was an untidy one with several bags of rubbish discarded on the ground, as well as loose litter items lining the base and between the units. Some of the glass bottles were broken and much of the litter appeared 'old', indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time.

'Horse Monument' and Environs: Grade B+. The built environment was in good order with paving, wooden seating and bright railings, all freshly presented. However, there simply too many loose litter items for the top litter grade and the area around the base of the monument was heavily weeded.

Main Street: Grade A. It was noted that the overall presentation of the streetscape was much improved compared to previous surveys e.g., attractive paving, ornamental trees, fresh street bins, wooden seating, bicycle parking, railing, bollards etc. Such a positive environment can go a long way towards creating a fresh atmosphere – this has been reflected in the Main Street very much deserving the top litter grade.

L4602 Approach: Grade B+. (Grand Canal Roundabout to junction with Meadowbrook Drive.) There was attractive planting at Grand Canal Roundabout. The main litter items along this stretch of road were mostly food related e.g., cans, fast-food wrappers, plastic bottles and sweet papers and alcohol cans.

Meadowbrook Drive / Close / Lawn: Grade B+. Scattered loose litter items spoiled the overall impression at this residential area. With a little extra effort this could easily be a top-ranking site.

Portiuncula Hospital: Grade A. Signage, low-lying planting, paving and overall exterior presentation were in good order. Plenty of colourful flower pots add some welcome colour. Hospital grounds were well maintained. It was spotless throughout.

R446 Approach: Grade B+. Much of the route was in good order, just some minor litter issues e.g., plastic bottles, cans and sweet papers along a stretch of road, almost opposite the hospital entrance. Apart from this area, the remainder of the route was well tended and fresh looking.