

Carlow: 28th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered.

Some disappointing slippage in Carlow, which again falls short of Clean status. When most towns are improving, Carlow is experiencing higher litter levels. Top ranking sites included the three approach routes and the residential area of Dolmen Heights. There was a notable improvement at Seating and Park at The Liberty Tree, but little change at Mr Price Car Park and Car Park at Penny Lane & Homesavers – these areas have been highlighted in previous IBAL surveys. The Recycle Centre at Askea Church Car Park was also seriously littered.

William Dargan Approach Road: Grade A. An exceptionally freshly presented tree-lined route. Road surface / markings / signage, cycle ways and footpath were in excellent condition. It was immaculate throughout. A very welcoming approach to Carlow town.

R448 Approach Road: Grade A. (Approach towards M7 direction from Deerpark Roundabout) A well presented and maintained route with freshly cut grass verges and colourful floral display on the grass at Deerpark Roundabout. It was excellent with regard to litter.

Seating and Park at The Liberty Tree: Grade B+. There was a notable improvement on previous surveys, this time it just missed the top litter grade. Solar Belly bin was in good order. The main culprits were plastic bottles and cigarette bottles (particularly pronounced at the base of the seating) with lower levels of sweet wrappers.

Car Park at Mr Price: Grade C. The overall presentation and maintenance of this site was very poor. Heavy levels of all manner of litter lined the perimeter of the car park. The large stand-alone cigarette butt unit was overflowing, the contents of which ended up on the ground. This area has been highlighted in many previous IBAL surveys.

Tullow Street: Grade B. A street of two distinct halves, one of which was immaculate (the end that was attractively paved with seating, planting etc., towards Dublin Road), the other which had a very definite litter presence. It was particularly noticeable outside the recessed area of AIB. The main litter items were ATM docketts, sweet wrappers, face masks and chewing gum with lower levels of cigarette butts.

Car Park at Penny Lane and Homesavers: Grade C. As with the Car Park at Mr Price, this site has been highlighted in previous IBAL surveys, with little improvement noted. The presentation and maintenance were poor with a casual attitude to litter prevailing. The peeling billboards are pretty indicative of the overall lack of care.

Dolmen Heights: Grade A. The residential area of Dolmen Heights got the top litter grade, but only just. Care needs to be taken here that litter doesn't build up on the grassland area.

Recycle Centre at Askea Church Car Park: Grade C. A poor site with the casual discarding of items relating to the usage of the facility e.g., broken glass, cardboard boxes, but also non-recyclable household items e.g., plastic lanterns and other household rubbish. This site is well on its way to Grade D status if not addressed.

Shopping Centre at Arthur's SuperValu: Grade B+. Some parts of this site were very clean, but it was let down by litter in the loading gate and car park. This took away from an otherwise well-presented environment with well attended shrubs and hedges.

R726 Hacketstown Approach: Grade A. There were no visible litter issues throughout the stretch of road surveyed. Colourful planting at the base of the 'Welcome to Carlow' signage and recently cut grass verges were noted.