

**Gorey: 12<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.**

It is a couple of years since Gorey was included in the survey and there was a definite improvement in the overall presentation and maintenance of the town. The overall result of this was a far higher ranking than previous surveys. The installation of barriers at the rear of Gorey Sports and Leisure Centre – a litter blackspot for many years – had made a difference. Several initiatives were noted e.g. Gorey 400 / Gorey Pride of Place / 'Have you Say on Gorey Town, Text Hello Gorey'. Top ranking sites included the newly redeveloped 'Gorey Town / Gorey District Park' (looking fantastic after all the work that has taken place), Tesco Extra and both the Main Street and Esmonde Street. The recycle facility at Tesco was the only litter blackspot.

**R772 Crugh Approach Road: Grade A.** There were no visible litter issues travelling along this route. The recessed picnic / seating area was in good order.

**Tesco Extra: Grade A.** (see separate survey site for the Recycle Facility) A large expanse of car park and area to the front and side of the supermarket – all aspects of this survey site were in excellent order and clear of litter, bar some cigarette butts in the car park. The front of the store was well served by litter bins, there was colourful and attractive bicycle parking, bollards, trolley bays, car park surface / markings / signage were all in very good order.

**Recycle Facility at Tesco Extra: Grade D.** This was the only site surveyed in Gorey which didn't get the top litter grade. It has been cited in many previous IBAL surveys as scoring poorly and things were no different this time around. When there are so many different vested interests (i.e. a variety of clothing bank charities and regular bottle / can recycling) where does the ultimate responsibility for this site lie? It wasn't just casually littered but subject to dumping, to the rear of some units and to the front of others. Some of the dumped items were obscuring the 'No Dumping' signage..

**Esmonde Street: Grade A.** Esmonde Street had frequently been a somewhat littered site in previous survey visits – not so, this time around. The planter boxes with greenery were a welcome addition. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the detached derelict house – sites like this can easily become a magnet for litter.

**Main Street: Grade A.** The Main Street presented very well, with ornamental trees, tiered planter boxes and occasional seating. It is particularly well served by litter bins, some of which could do with freshening up. There was no litter associated with the 'outdoor seating' areas.

**Gorey Civic Square: Grade A.** An exceptionally freshly presented and maintained environment incorporating Courthouse, Civic Offices and Library, picnic seating, playground PE Equipment, water fountain, Tidy Towns Hut, etc.. It was excellent and spotless throughout.

**Gorey Town Park / Gorey District Park: Grade A.** What a transformation! There have been major works / redevelopment at this park since last included in IBAL survey – it now includes a vast expanse of green space with attractive paving throughout. Other elements include 'Gorey District Park Pond', new PE equipment, a planted area with children's art work. Gorey Park Sports Club building and environs is nearing completion.

**Gorey Sports and Leisure Centre: Grade A.** For many many years this site had been badly let down by the litter / dumping at the area to the rear. This was no longer the case due to the erection of fencing. The remainder of the area surveyed was fine with regard to litter, albeit there was graffiti on some signage.

**Courtown Approach Road: Grade A.** A lovely, fresh approach to Gorey with a wonderful splash of yellow daffodils close to the picnic area. There were no no visible litter issues.

**R772 Dublin Approach: Grade A.** A functional route, road surface, markings and signage were in good order. Overall, very much deserving of the top litter grade.