

Midleton: 13th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

With seven out of the ten sites surveyed getting the top litter grade, Midleton has ranked very highly. These included all three approach roads, the residential area of Willowbank, The Main Street and Midleton Retail Park – the latter was exceptionally well presented and maintained with abundant planting throughout. The Town Park / Midleton Lodge and Market Green Car Park could easily be top ranking with just a little extra care – the park environment was a large green expanse with plenty of space devoted to 'Managed for Wildlife'. By far the most heavily littered site surveyed was the Clothing Bank at Distillery Road Car Park – it wasn't just casually littered but larger items had been deposited beside the clothing bin units – this was in sharp contrast to all the other sites surveyed in Midleton.

Approach from N25 (Cork Direction). Grade A. There were no visible litter issues along this busy route into Midleton. There was plenty of commercial signage throughout, but no litter.

Midleton Retail Park: Grade A. Not only was there a complete absence of litter throughout the retail park, it was exceptionally well presented and maintained. Low-lying planting was very much a feature, creating a lovely impression. Pedestrian crossing areas were paved in attractive brickwork. Outdoor picnic table area, combined with substantial and colourful planter boxes were in excellent order – overall, this was an exceptionally clean and well maintained environment.

Fermoy Approach Road: Grade A. This route was freshly presented with new paving, markings and bicycle / pedestrian pathway along one stretch. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Youghal Approach Road: Grade A. Not only was this route spotless but clearly a very careful eye is kept on the former garage as there was no litter directly associated with it. The 'olde' agricultural machinery are a colourful feature, on the right hand side, closer to the town.

Town Park / Midleton Lodge: Grade B+. There were so many positive features to this large expanse of parkland – wonderful, mature setting with small river running through, picnic tables, sculptures made from tree trunks, signage indicating 'All Ireland Pollinator Plan' with associated grassland, etc. There were just too many pieces of food related litter and face-masks for the top litter grade.

Main Street: Grade A. One side of the street has been widened and attractively paved with bicycle parking, ornamental trees, outdoor seating etc – it was spotless throughout with all aspects in very good order. Chewing gum was a little obvious along the other side of the street on the slightly older red paving but there were no other litter issues.

Market Green Car Park: Grade B+. With a little extra care and attention this site could easily get the top litter grade. Some food related litter items took away from an otherwise well-presented environment. Attractive WW1 memorial at the pedestrian entrance was a striking feature.

Willowbank: Grade A. This large residential development was very much deserving of the top litter grade. There were several inter-connecting roads with many different grass areas – none of them were littered and there only appeared to be one minor incident of graffiti.

Clothing Bank at Distillery Road Car Park: Grade C. This site was in sharp contrast to the rest of Midleton – it wasn't just casually littered but the very deliberate discarding of larger items had taken place e.g., suitcase, black sacks etc.

Jameson Distillery – public entrance: Grade A. An immaculate site with some lovely features – clearly a very well maintained environment.