

Monaghan: 10th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms

A further improvement for Monaghan town. All three of the approach roads surveyed got the top litter grade and this set the high standard for almost all of the remaining sites surveyed. Other top ranking examples included The Diamond, the residential area of Limegrove and Peter's Lake – the latter is a lovely waterside feature, surrounded by grass. By far the most heavily littered site was The Diamond Centre – a persistently littered site over many previous IBAL surveys. It is in sharp contrast to the rest of the town.

Enniskillen Approach Road – N54: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter over a long stretch of road. Road surface, markings, signage and paving were in very good order. Overall, a clean and tidy impression was created here and this high standard was sustained for almost all the remaining sites surveyed in Monaghan.

Monaghan Hospital: Grade A. (A Tobacco Free Campus) The grounds of Monaghan Hospital were very much deserving of the top litter grade. Abundant planter boxes at the entrance were a lovely feature and the low-lying shrubbery areas were well maintained. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the renovation works taking place as there was no litter directly associated with same.

Limegrove: Grade A. There was a very fresh appearance to this residential development with the individual houses brightly painted and well-tended small front gardens. It was excellent with regard to litter.

The Diamond Centre: Grade C This has long been a littered site, with very little change this time around. Monaghan Tidy Towns have produced some humorous signage outside the cinema. Some of the premises were in good order (e.g., B's Bites, The Cottontail Café, National Learning Network and the eastern European Supermarket) but the overall impression was of a heavily littered environment, with bags of rubbish and heavy levels of a wide variety of food and alcohol related items and cigarette butts. This was by far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Monaghan.

The Diamond: Grade A. An exceptionally freshly presented town centre environment, marred only by stains on the pavement underfoot. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good condition e.g., seating, Monaghan Town Centre Map, paving, street bins, ornamental trees, planter boxes etc.

St Patrick's Church of Ireland: Grade A. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the church grounds – grass / low-lying shrubbery were in very good order.

Peter's Lake: Grade A. A lovely town centre waterside feature, surrounded by grass with seating, picnic tables, sculptures, litter bins etc. Signage relating to visitor information / dog fouling / 'Pesticide-Free Zone' etc. was in excellent condition. There was minimal litter throughout.

Recycle Bank at Car Park beside Peter's Lake: Grade A. A small facility with the glass / can units very freshly presented. The pink clothing unit was very rusty, with some of the associated signage peeling away.

Dublin Road: Grade B+. Food and alcohol related litter, along with cigarette butts were present along this stretch of road. The 'Ulster Canal Greenway' signage beside the green bench and black bin was in very good condition.

R186 Tydavnet Approach Road: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along this somewhat rural route with mature planting throughout.