

Portlaoise: 26th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

A town with six top ranking sites would typically rank quite highly but the presence of a litter blackspot and a heavily littered site in Portlaoise brings down the overall ranking. These sites – the derelict site on Harpur's Lane and the recessed entrance to a ghost estate beside Mountain View Square - didn't get into this state overnight and will require attention to prevent further deterioration. Top ranking sites included Gandon Court Shopping Centre, The Main Street and the Bring Centre in car park adjacent to the Grape & Bean.

Recessed Entrance to ghost estate beside Mountain View Square: Grade C. This area presents poorly, not just heavily littered but also neglected. This site is well on its way to Grade D status if not addressed – it wasn't just casually littered but some other objects e.g. petrol container, car parts, plastic wrapping and various other items of debris.

N80 Mountmellick Approach Road: Grade B. Much of the road was in good order regarding litter but it was let down by food related items (mineral cans and plastic bottles) at the improvised lay-by. This took away from an otherwise well-presented and maintained route with recently attended grass verges.

Gandon Court Shopping Centre: Grade A. A freshly presented shopping centre environment with ornamental trees a welcome addition to the large expanse of car parking. Litter bins, paving, bollards, trolley bays etc. were in good order – there was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

'Bring Centre' in car park adjacent to the Grape & Bean: Grade A. The overall impression at this facility was a good one. The recycle units were freshly presented and there was minimal litter associated with same.

Ballyfin Approach Road: Grade A. There were no visible litter issues along this somewhat rural approach route. Colourful planting at the base of the 'Portlaoise' signage was a nice feature.

Main Street: Grade A. A freshly presented main shopping street with attractive paving, 'olde' style street lamps, colourful planter boxes and ornamental trees. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order and there were plenty of cigarette butt units throughout.

Derelict Site on Harpur's Lane: Grade D. This site wasn't just casually littered but subject to dumping – items included large scale household items. Requires attention.

Fairgreen Village – Gandon Close / Vichy Court: Grade B+. This residential area just missed getting the top litter grade. Food related items (e.g., coffee cups, plastic bottles, mineral cans and sweet wrappers) took away from an otherwise well presented environment.

Dublin Road: Grade A. A busy road with a mix of retail parks, hospital and prison along this route. The overall impression was a good one in terms of presentation and litter. There were plenty of bins with cigarette butt units, seemingly having the desired effect as the area was devoid of litter / butts.

Church Street: Grade A. Apart from chewing gum, Church Street was clean and clear of litter. The Arts Centre building presented well.