

Wicklow: 7th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed.

It's a couple of years since Wicklow Town was included in IBAL survey and the overall presentation and maintenance of same appears to have improved significantly. All approach roads got the top litter grade and this high standard was sustained for almost all of the remaining sites. Industrial Complex 'For Sale' was the only one which didn't get the top litter grade. There didn't appear to be so many vacant / derelict sites along Abbey Street / Main Street, with the outdoor seating / substantial planting a very welcome addition. Wicklow Gaol & environs were exceptionally well presented and maintained and the Glen Beach Cliff Walk is a wonderful addition to the town, and is clearly very well respected by the users of same.

Approach from Rathnew: Grade A. Fairly new road surface created a very fresh impression. Markings and signage were in good order. No litter issues of note throughout the area surveyed.

Dunbar Approach: Grade A. No visible litter issues. Tidy Towns / Welcome to Wicklow / Michael Collins Drive signage. A fresh and welcoming approach

Glen Beach Cliff Walk / Lime Kiln Bay: Grade A. A wonderful cliff path walk which, apart from occasional dog fouling, was spotless throughout. Excellent signage relating to the walk - safety on path / seal pups / natural environment etc..

Abbey Street / Main Street: Grade A. Plenty of life along Abbey Street / Main Street with outdoor seating and abundant planter boxes - all looks very well and has been much enhanced by the planting. There were still some vacant / derelict sites but there didn't seem to be as many as last IBAL survey. The area was well served by litter bins.

'Bring Bank' at car park on way into Super Valu car park: Grade A. No litter issues. Some graffiti on the recycle bins and the associated signage on the adjoining walls. Signage on the bins, relating to the use of the facility, was grubby, barely legible.

Murrough Playground / Picnic area & Environs: Grade A. Playground equipment / picnic tables / facilities were all in very good order. Significant graffiti on the litter bins and skatepark. Overall, the area presented very well and was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

R999 Approach over Murrough Bridge: Grade A. A particularly freshly presented route with excellent road surface / markings / signage, separate cycle / pedestrian pathways and plenty of greenery throughout. The overall presentation was excellent and spotless throughout.

Lidl: Grade A. An exceptionally freshly presented and maintained shopping and car parking environment. Minimal cigarette butts in the car parking area. Attractive low-lying planting along the roadside border. Bicycle parking, silver bollards, tree planting etc were all in excellent order.

Wicklow Gaol: Grade A. The grounds and immediate environs of Wicklow Gaol presented very well. Planter boxes / visitor information signage were in very good order. Whole area was very well maintained.

Industrial Complex 'For Sale': Grade C. (almost opposite Wicklow Co Co Recycle Centre') An extensive industrial complex with 'For Sale' sign - an air of neglect pervaded throughout, with broken windows and boarded up premises. It wasn't just casually littered but plenty of industrial waste / wrapping. Much of the casual litter looked 'long-lie' indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time. This site could quickly deteriorate further.