

Carlow: 25th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

A great result for Carlow in regaining 'clean' status - especially compared to a few years ago. This has been brought about by a couple of significantly improved sites which had previously very much brought down the overall town ranking - Car Park at Penny Lane & Home Savers. The Potato Market was a freshly presented and maintained town centre environment and the Liberty Tree was litter free. By far the most heavily littered site in Carlow was Car Park at Mr Price – no improvement over a long number of years.

Recycle Facility at Askea Church Car Park: Grade B+. This was a freshly presented 'Bring Facility' with recycle units and signage associated with the usage of same in good condition. If it wasn't for the items stuffed between the units, it would have got the top litter grade.

R448 Dublin Exit to Deerpark Roundabout: Grade A. This was a very clean and well presented, tree-lined route into Carlow. There was abundant planting throughout and freshly cut grass verges. There was a complete absence of litter along this route.

Hacketstown Approach Road: Grade A. Road surface / markings / signage were in good order and there were no visible litter issues.

Car Park at Penny Lane & Home Savers: Grade B+. A much improved site compared to several previous IBAL surveys. There were no longer the heavy accumulations but lesser levels of fewer types of litter. Cigarette butts were very noticeable, and the peeling billboards presented poorly.

Tullow Street: Grade B+. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the numerous vacant / derelict sites as there was no litter directly associated with them. One part of the street has lovely paving, colourful planting, wooden seating and looked very well. The other part was less freshly presented. Apart from heavy levels of chewing gum and lower levels of cigarette butts and other occasional items, this was a good site.

Potato Market: Grade A. A freshly presented town centre environment with attractive paving, tree planting, bicycle parking etc. Apart from one incident of old fly-posting on an electricity type pole, the overall impression was clean and tidy.

The Liberty Tree: Grade A. The large water feature was litter free and there was good visitor information notices board and attractive street signage. Cigarette butts were pronounced around the seating area.

Car Park at Mr Price: Grade C. This was by far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Carlow – no improvement on previous IBAL surveys. The storage area was not just untidy but significantly littered. It presented very poorly. This site was well on its way to Grade D status.

Tesco Shopping Centre / adjacent cinema: Grade A. A freshly presented environment with attractive planting – all looked very well here and was excellent with regard to litter.

Clayton Hall: Grade B+. This residential area just missed the top litter grade – there were too many sweet papers and plastic bottles. This took away from an otherwise attractively presented environment with grass, trees and 'olde' style street lamps.