

Ennis: 5th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

A very strong performance by a former IBAL Winner – the location of the IBAL sculpture is the impeccably presented and maintained Abbey Street Car Park. Other top-ranking sites included the three approach roads and O'Connell Street, Market Place / Market Street Lower and Monastery Park. Gort Road Business Park and Ennis Bus / Train Station were very much deserving of the top litter grade this time around – a big improvement compared to a few years ago.

Ballymalley Business Park: Grade B. The majority of this business park was freshly presented and maintained and excellent with regard to litter. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the vacant premises with large boulder to the front / side. However, the same can't be said for Block 1 where litter items were beginning to gather around the perimeter of the building. This could quickly deteriorate if allowed to build up.

Quin Road, Approach: Grade B+. Minor food related items on the left-hand side as one approaches Ennis Train station - just missed the top litter grade. Visible items included sweet papers, fast-food wrappers and mineral cans.

Gort Road Business Park: Grade A. For a long number of years there was a corner area within the industrial estate which was primarily responsible for bringing down the litter grade - not so, this time around. Development was taking place to the rear of the estate which had also previously harboured litter.

Market Place / Market Street, Lower: Grade A. There were no litter issues of note in this shopping area. While it was not quite as freshly presented as O'Connell Street, it was still deserving of the top litter grade.

Monastery Park: Grade A. A place of repose and reflection. A small open park space with a series of memorials within - all of which were fittingly and well maintained. There was a complete absence of litter in the immediate environment.

R458 approach from Clareabbey Roundabout: Grade A. Excellent first impression from Limerick direction. New road surfaces / markings create a particularly fresh impression. A series of vacant commercial premises on the left and residential premises on the right didn't impact negatively on the litter situation.

R352 Lahinch Approach Road: Grade A. All appeared in good order in terms of presentation and maintenance. The majority of the route close to the town centre passes through residential area, all of which were well presented and maintained.

Abbey Street Car Park: Grade A. Not only was this car park spotless, (fitting for the location of IBAL winner sculpture) it was very attractively presented / maintained with seating, planter boxes, tree planting, plenty of visitor information notices and Tidy Towns sponsored nature themed notices. It is the care and attention to detail with something as functional as a car park which sets this site and Ennis apart.

Ennis Bus / Train Station: Grade A. A hugely improved site in terms of overall presentation and litter. The road / car park resurfacing certainly helps but there were not the litter issues which prevailed a number of years ago - just very minor amounts around perimeter of the car park.

O'Connell Street: Grade A. O'Connell Street is always very well presented and maintained, and things were no different this time around, despite some shop units which appeared to be vacant / closed down - there was no litter associated with these.