

Monaghan: 8th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

A very strong performance by Monaghan with the absence of seriously littered sites having a big impact on the overall ranking. The Diamond Shopping Centre has regularly been a seriously littered site – not so this time around, just a moderately littered one. All the approach roads were very good with regard to litter and other examples of top ranking sites included North Road and Monument to Col Vesey Dawson.

N54 Approach: Grade A. This road was characterised by good road surface / markings / signage and attractive tree planting. The area to the front of Kingspan was particularly freshly presented. There were no litter issues of note.

Monaghan Hospital: Grade B+. The hospital grounds were well presented and maintained with attractive planting throughout. If it wasn't for the blue builders' plastic and some food related items (sweet papers, fast-food wrappers, plastic bags and coffee cups) at the grassy bank, this would have been a top-ranking site.

The Diamond Shopping Centre: Grade B. There was some improvement noted at this site, but that is coming from a low base. This time around it was moderately littered with fast-food wrappers, sweet papers, cigarette butts and alcohol cans being the most obvious items. The overall impression was of an area which lacked a thorough cleaning in quite some time and one where a very careless attitude to littering prevails – it could easily slide back to heavily littered status.

Monument to Col Vesey Dawson: Grade A. The monument and the immediate environs were freshly presented with attractive paving, large planer boxes, seating and bollards – all were in very good condition. There was a complete absence of litter.

North Road: Grade A. An attractively presented shopping street with lovely brick work, planter boxes, hanging baskets etc. The long wall mural with children's art is a great way to take away the bare look of a vacant site, while at the same time, giving the children an opportunity to display their artwork. The overall impression along North Road was a very good one.

Recycle Bank: Grade B+. A freshly presented facility with five bottle / can units and one 'Clothes Pod' – units and signage associated with same were in good order. On first impressions it seemed like this as a very clean site, further exploration revealed some items stuffed between / behind the units. A more thorough approach to not just emptying but cleaning is required.

N54 Cavan Approach Road: Grade A. This route was very much deserving of the top litter grade. Colourful planting at the Margaret Skinnider Roundabout created a welcoming impression. A boarded up two storey building had been brightly painted to great effect, taking away the bare look.

St. Louis Secondary School: Grade A. All appeared in very good order with buildings and grounds well-presented and maintained.

Milltown Approach Road: Grade A. Apart from some noticeable graffiti on a wall, this approach was virtually litter free.

Monaghan Library: Grade A. There were no litter issues at this facility. Weeds were beginning to develop at the front but not to any great degree.