

**Portlaoise: 20<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.**

**Portlaoise has cleaned up after a slight dip in mid-2022. Significant improvement was noted at the Entrance to the Ghost Estate beside Mountain View – this had been a heavily littered site in previous IBAL surveys. Some of the top ranking sites included Dunnes Stores, the Main Street and Hind's Square – the latter is an attractively presented town centre environment which looked very well. By far the most heavily littered site in Portlaoise was a vacant site on Harpurs Lane.**

**Dunnes Stores: Grade A.** The overall impression created at this car park / shopping environment was a good one. Apart from some minor items around the perimeter wall and at the store entrances, it was very good with regard to litter. Car park surface / markings / signage, bollards and paving at the entrance were all in very good condition.

**Entrance to Ghost Estate beside Mountain View: Grade B+.** A significant improvement was noted at this site, previously a heavily littered one. The provision of large green boulders has probably contributed to this. Some 'long-lie' litter prevails behind the railings / fences but hopefully there won't be a further build-up.

**Hind's Square: Grade A.** An attractively presented and maintained town centre environment – all aspects of the area surveyed were in good order e.g., paving, planting, outdoor seating, street bins etc. – there was a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

**Main Street: Grade A.** There was plenty of colourful planting throughout this main shopping street. Seating, paving, street bins, colourful floral displays, visitor information signage, paving, seating etc. were in very good condition. It was excellent with regard to litter.

**Mountrath Approach Road: Grade A.** A clean and tidy impression was created along this route with no obvious litter issues.

**N80 Tullamore Road: Grade A.** This route was very much deserving of the top litter grade. Recently cut grass verges and an absence of litter throughout create a positive first impression of Portlaoise.

**The Garden Village: Grade B+.** This residential area just missed the top litter grade. The area was very well presented and maintained with lovely tree planting and communal grass space. There were too many plastic bottles, can and sweet wrappers for the top litter grade.

**Portlaoise Train Station: Grade B.** There was a variety of food related items in the car park, (particularly in the grass beneath the barrier around the perimeter) in the storage / service areas and close to the platforms. A more thorough approach to cleaning could address this.

**R145 Limerick Approach Road: Grade A.** There were no visible litter issues along this well-presented road.

**Vacant site on Harpurs Lane: Grade C+.** The house on this site has since been demolished and clearly work has taken place on the overall presentation of same. While there has been some improvement, there was still a very definite litter presence, heavy levels of plastic bottles, coffee cups and cans with lower levels of alcohol cans.