

**Drogheda: 27<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms**

**This positive turnaround for Drogheda – with no heavily littered sites - is thanks to the efforts of Louth County Council in tandem with community and business groups in the town. Experience in the IBAL surveys has shown that once a town / city manages to get cleaner that it is much easier to stay clean – hopefully this will be the case with Drogheda. Ballsgrove Recycle Facility was very much deserving of the top litter grade this time around – a big improvement on previous IBAL surveys. Marley’s Lane was significantly cleaner than many previous surveys and not much effort is required for the top litter grade. St Laurence Street, Marsh Road and West Street had also improved.**

**Marley’s Lane Approach: Grade B.** (from Rowan Heights to Rathmullen Road) The overall impression was of a route which was significantly cleaner, with some parts particularly freshly presented and clear of litter. The recent grass cutting has resulted in some ‘chopped up’ litter, mostly casually dropped food related items. There was one incident of domestic dumping at a litter bin. Several Dog Fouling signs along this route including ‘Litter Louts, Don’t Litter Louth’.

**Newgrange Business Park: Grade B.** This was a ‘mixed’ site in terms of presentation and litter. Some areas close to the front and end were immaculate, others not so. There was a very definite litter presence around the ESB premises, some at the NCT centre and bus depot. There was a wide variety of food related items present, along with significant accumulations of cigarette butts.

**Ballsgrove Recycle Facility: Grade A.** Ballsgrove Recycle Facility was very much deserving of the top litter grade this time around – a big improvement on previous IBAL surveys. The recycle bin units and associated signage were freshly presented. Notice indicates that ‘It is an offence to leave waste outside these Bring Banks’ is prominently displayed.

**Drogheda Bus Station: Grade B+.** This site just missed the top litter grade – some food related items, cigarette butts and bus / train tickets took away from an otherwise freshly presented environment. The planting in the gravel looked well. As a side note, there was a freshly built wall, behind which there were accumulations of litter, not considered part of the immediate survey site but requiring attention and likely to impact the main survey site if not addressed.

**Dublin Road Approach: Grade A.** The overall impression created along this route was a very good one with colourful planting / grass / shrubbery areas. There was a virtual absence of litter along this route.

**St. Dominic’s Bridge: Grade A.** What a lovely feature this bridge is now. It has been attractively paved and adorned with wooden seating and planting, all in excellent condition and very fresh in appearance. It was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

**Meat Market Lane: Grade A.** There were minimal litter items along this narrow laneway / alleyway. Paving was attractive, if somewhat stained by fluids and chewing gum.

**St. Laurence Street: Grade B.** A notably improved site in terms of litter, most especially as you approach Laurence’s Gate. This area is clean, with buildings undergoing improvements. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the closed down / vacant premises as there was no litter directly associated with them. A colourful new attraction to the street is ‘Flowers n Things’ with wonderful displays. Paving was mixed, fresh and attractive in some stretches, old and cracked in others. Cigarette butts were obvious, particularly on the kerb, with lower levels of plastic bottles and sweet papers.

**West Street: Grade B+.** Another notable improvement in Drogheda and this time around West Street just missed the top litter grade. The wide and attractive paving looked very well. Tree planting, seating, bollards etc. were in good condition.

**Marsh Road: Grade B+.** It is great to see the work in Drogheda being reflected in improved litter grades – this also applies to Marsh Road. The stretch between the town centre and the bridge was very good with regard to litter and any visible litter was mostly associated with the stretch after the bridge to the speed limit signs.