

Kilkenny: 3rd out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms

A very strong performance from Kilkenny, as we have come to expect from this tourist destination of historical note. All of the approach roads got the top litter grade, setting the tone for the majority of the remaining sites surveyed. Market Cross Shopping Centre was absolutely spotless, not even a cigarette butt to be seen. The grounds of Kilkenny Castle Parklands were wonderful – a complete absence of litter throughout. The approach to Kilkenny Castle, via The Parade was an exceptionally freshly presented and maintained environment with all aspects in excellent order.

R693 Thurles Approach Road: Grade A. (Area surveyed from 'Welcome to Kilkenny' signage just after Texaco filling station) A very good first impression of Kilkenny. Minimal litter items observed. Road surface closer to the town was new and fresh looking.

N10 Approach Road: Grade A. (up to old Dublin Road Roundabout from Harbour Road Roundabout) A freshly presented and maintained main route from the motorway. Apart from some plastic bags, it was very good with regard to litter.

Kilkenny Ring Road: Grade A. (including Area by IMC Cinema) Freshly presented road surface / markings / signage. All appeared in very good order; nice grass area on the right, opposite the cinema – there were no visible litter issues.

Mother of Fair Love School: Grade A. From the outside of the school, all aspects appeared in good order. Nice area of tulips / daffodils within the school grounds and colourful planter box at the school gate. To the side of the building there was more planting of other seeds. It was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

Bring Centre at St. Canice's: Grade B. Very clear and extensive signage relating to the use of this tiny facility. Just a few bottle / can units and one clothing unit; Packaging had been very deliberately discarded in the corner location. There was also broken glass also at the base of the bins. With a little extra care this could easily be a Grade A site.

Market Cross Shopping Centre: Grade A. The cleanest shopping centre this surveyor has ever seen! There wasn't even a cigarette butt to be seen. Some of the bins provided the opportunity to separate waste into recycling. Lovely, large planter boxes throughout, along with attractive planting underfoot at ground level. Lovely wooden seating, some with built in planter boxes. Complete absence of litter throughout. Clearly a careful eye is kept on closed down premises, (of which there were plenty), as there was no litter associated with any of them.

High Street: Grade A. An exceptionally clean main shopping street with many lovely features throughout e.g., paving, seating, silver bollards, street maps, planting etc. It was so very much deserving of the top litter grade. There were many closed down premises, with no litter associated with them.

Kilkenny Castle Parkland: Grade A. If Grade A+ was awarded, this site would certainly be deserving of same. A fantastic amenity which was being enjoyed by many on a sunny day towards the end of Easter holidays. It is an extensive site, replete with outdoor café / picnic tables / playground / pond and several KM signed walking / running pathways. It was spotless throughout, extraordinarily clean for such a vast site - a credit to the users and those responsible for the maintenance of same. Some 'Bees at Work' signage in one corner site.

River Walk: Grade B+. There was no litter along the Horseleap side of the river. Some minor food and cigarette / vaping related items along the side of the river by the library. Lifebelts, paving, colourful planting etc were all in good order. Picnic table area was clear of litter.

The Parade: Grade A. This wide expanse of road is exceptionally well served by litter bins. Picnic tables with built in chess / drafts board; bicycle parking / Bolt Ebike scheme / Public Toilets etc. - all aspects were in excellent condition. Excellent visitor information signage - interactive as well as various maps etc. The whole area was very good with regard to litter.