

**Longford: 25<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms**

**A solid performance for Longford, with half of the sites surveyed getting the top litter grade – these included the car park at Albert Reynolds Peace Park, Mall Walk and Longford Library – the latter deserves a special mention as it was much improved on previous IBAL surveys. Some sites just missed the top litter grade e.g., Bring Facility at Market Square and Longford Bus / Train Station. The most heavily littered site surveyed was the residential area of Harbour Point.**

**N4 Approach: Grade A.** (from Charlotte Brook Roundabout in to Red Cow Roundabout). A freshly presented approach route with road surface / markings / signage all in good order and an abundance of dandelions at the Red Cow Roundabout. The whole area was very much deserving of the top litter grade and the works taking place didn't impact the litter situation at all.

**R198: Grade A.** (from junction at Lisbrack and Battery Road in to Church of Ireland Church) There was a virtual absence of litter along this road, with very well-maintained properties along both sides – some of these were bright and freshly painted. Attractive style of wooden litter bin had a planter box on top.

**Car Park at Albert Reynolds Peace Park: Grade A.** A freshly presented and well-maintained outdoor car park environment. Car park surface / markings / signage were in good order. The grass / surrounding shrubbery were well tended. This site was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

**Main Street / Ballymahon Street: Grade B.** Some, but certainly not all, of the premises along this main thoroughfare were freshly presented. Others were neglected / run-down and presented poorly, some of which had litter gathering to the front. The pavement was mixed, fresh, clean and attractive brick work along some parts and less fresh / older and cracked along other parts of the road. Visitor information signage and planter boxes were in good order. Litter items included cigarette butts, alcohol cans, plastic bags and sweet papers.

**Bring Facility, Market Square: Grade B+.** Signage at this facility asks patrons to 'Please finish the Job i.e. Take your bags / cardboard boxes with you and help to keep this facility clean and tidy'. This is the kind of signage that could / should be rolled out throughout the country based on the amount of cardboard boxes / plastic bags deposited at such facilities. With a little extra effort this site could easily get the top litter grade – some broken glass and small pieces of litter at the base of the recycle units took away from an otherwise well-presented and maintained facility. Certainly, it was improved on IBAL 2022.

**Harbour Point: Grade C.** This town centre residential development was by far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Longford. There was a persistent litter presence, most obviously alcohol cans, sweet wrappers and cigarette butts with lower levels of coffee cups, plastic bottles, paper and cardboard. The grass / shrubbery area were in need of maintenance.

**Longford Bus / Train Station: Grade B+.** The Waiting Room areas and train station platforms were in good order e.g., seating, litter bins, visitor information signage etc. The low-lying planter boxes are empty and likely to be used as litter bins. Any visible litter was associated with the bus area.

**Park Road Approach: Grade B.** (from Railway bridge out to 'Frame Space' facility). There was a wide variety of litter items along this road, mostly food related but also some newspapers, paper bags, cigarette cartons and tissues – it was more obvious at the inner end of the road. The area outside the entrance to No. 1 Sycamore Drive was littered at the base of the shrubbery.

**Longford Library: Grade A.** A much improved site compared to previous IBAL survey. It would seem that this facility has had a facelift with new forecourt area with paving, seating and beds for planting. The heavily littered areas to one side have been cleared and new grass seed sown where old shrubbery was removed. Hopefully all this great work will continue to be reflected in future surveys and more importantly, for the local community.

**Mall Walk: Grade A.** (from R198 to Albert Reynolds Park) Excellent signage relating to 'The Mall Walk' / Longford Regeneration / Project Ireland 2040. A lovely outdoor amenity which has been very well presented and respected by the users. All aspects of this area were in very good order e.g., signage, seating, litter bins, dog fouling facility, PE equipment etc. were in very good order. There were very few pieces of litter throughout a large expanse.