

Mullingar: 17th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms

A slight fall in cleanliness in Mullingar. Mullingar Train Station (Exterior / Interior) was very much deserving of the top litter grade – not just good with regard to litter but freshly presented and maintained. Other top-ranking sites included some approach roads and Market Square House – the latter is an attractively laid out environment which was excellent with regards to litter. The Canal Bank has shown some improvement from previous heavily littered status but there was still a definite litter presence. By far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Mullingar was the Recycle Facility (town centre Car Park) – much of the litter associated with it was to the rear and 'long-lie', indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time.

390 Access Road: Grade A. A clean and freshly presented route into Mullingar with road surface / markings / signage in good order. There were no visible litter issues.

Recycle Facility, town centre Car Park: Grade C. This was by far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Mullingar. The signage associated with the usage of the facility was freshly presented, large, clear and legible. The bin units were fine and there was minimal litter to the front. However, the area to the rear of the units was heavily littered, much of it seemingly 'long-lie', indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time. Many of the items here were not 'recyclable' in terms of the bin units provided at this facility.

Mullingar Train Station – External: Grade A. This 'olde' style station was looking very well with lovely brickwork and paving. There were some 'works' taking place and clearly a careful eye is kept on this space as there was no litter directly associated with the works.

Mullingar Train Station – Interior: Grade A. The Interior of the station was exceptionally freshly presented and very well served by litter bins. Station signage, seating, litter bins etc. were all in very good order. It was spotless throughout.

Canal Bank: Grade B. There was some improvement at this site, formerly a heavily littered one in previous IBAL surveys. The very heavy levels were no longer apparent on this visit. This time around the most obvious items were sweet papers, mineral cans and bottles, mostly trapped in the reeds / at the waters' edge. In order to prevent a further build-up, perhaps the installation of some litter awareness notices might help?

Oliver Plunkett Street: Grade B. Attractive paving / substantial planter boxes certainly add to the overall streetscape. It would seem that while the paving was freshly presented, most of the litter ended up at the kerb, beside the parked cars. There were heavy levels of cigarette butts, with lower levels of fast-food wrappers and sweet wrappers and other smaller items. With a little extra care and attention, this could be a top-ranking site.

Market Square House: Grade A. The built environment was looking very well with attractive paving / brick work. Area was enhanced by large planter boxes, seating, sculpture etc. – there was a complete absence of litter.

Fairgreen Centre: Grade B. The car park of this shopping centre was freshly presented with surface / markings in good order. Any litter which was present was to be found around the perimeter / on the grass. Most obvious items were cigarette butts, sweet papers and fast-food wrappers.

R392 Ballymahon Approach Road: Grade A. All appeared in good order along this approach road. The newly laid asphalt presented well and there were no signs of litter. Grass had been mown to one side and 'more natural' to the other side.

Castlepollard Approach Road: Grade A. Apart from some minor food related items at the bus stop area, this route created a positive first impression of Mullingar.