

Sligo: 7th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms

A very strong performance by Sligo sees it in the top ten of the rankings, with eight out of the ten sites surveyed getting the top litter grade and no seriously littered ones. Sligo General Hospital had been stubbornly heavily littered for a number of years – it is still a building site in parts, but other areas were freshly presented and hopefully once all the works are complete the overall appearance will be much enhanced. Sligo Regional Park is a wonderful resource, a vast expanse of green space, much of it 'natural' in appearance – the features within the park were all in very good order. Lidl, Cranmore Road wasn't just excellent with regard to litter but was enhanced by a perimeter grass area which was 'Managed for Biodiversity'. JF Kennedy Parade / Rockwood Parade Riverwalk is a lovely riverwalk amenity which is attractively laid out and well maintained.

Pearse Road Approach: Grade A. A freshly presented route, passing through a mix of residential and commercial properties. There were no visible litter issues along this road.

R291 Rosses Point Approach Road: Grade A. Road works were taking place close to Sligo town, but they didn't impact in any negative way on the litter situation. Overall, this road was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

Sligo Regional Park: Grade A. (incl War Memorial) A wonderful park environment, much of it left to quite a natural state with several separate 'Managed for Biodiversity' locations. The pedestrian pathways, cycle paths, seating, litter bins, signage, poetry quotes and picnic tables were in very good order. Apart from a couple of incidents of dog fouling, it was excellent with regards to litter. There were no visible litter issues at the area cordoned off for 'works' within the park.

Lidl, Cranmore Road: Grade A. Not only was this Lidl premises spotless, the area was enhanced by a patch of perimeter grass which was 'Managed for Biodiversity'. Tree planting within the car park was a welcome feature. There was no litter associated with the area which was very tidily cordoned off for works.

JF Kennedy Parade / Rockwood Parade Riverwalk: Grade A. A lovely riverside environment with some planting, paved areas, seating, and very good visitor information signage. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order and it was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

Bring Facility, Sligo Regional Sports Ground: Grade A. A small, freshly presented facility with units flush to the structure surrounding it on three sides – this has successfully prevented the 'stuffing' of items between / beneath / behind the units. Apart from one discarded cardboard box, it was excellent with regards to litter. The area immediately around the clothing unit was spotless.

Sligo Regional Hospital: Grade B. While some parts of the grounds were still very much a building site, there were other parts which were beginning to look well e.g., seating / paved areas with planter boxes awaiting some plants. While not as heavily littered as many recent IBAL surveys there was still a very definite litter presence, much of it long-lie (indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time) in some parts of the grounds. Cigarette butts were very pronounced at the base of the tress along The Mall stretch of the perimeter.

Sligo Borough Car Park, Connaughton Road: Grade A. A large coach / car park with car park surface / markings / signage all in very good order. There were minimal litter issues throughout.

O'Connell Street: Grade B. Much of O'Connell Street presented very well with lovely paving and large planter boxes and a virtual absence of litter. However, it was impossible to ignore a couple of isolated areas which brought down the overall litter grade – a site where the industrial / commercial waste has spilled onto the pavement, creating a poor impression – clearly this has been problematic in the past based on the 'No Dumping, CCTV signage signs. A couple of bags of clear plastic had also been left beside the plant feature at the end of the one-way system.

N4 Dublin Approach Road: Grade A. A fast-moving route, not much opportunity to delay but not a littered one. The pavement appeared in good order too.