

**Ballina: 10<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.**

**Another fine performance from Ballina. There was great evidence of Tidy Towns tie in with the community – an excellent example of this were the colourful illustrations of historic interest along the side of the Dunnes Stores Premises. With seven top ranking sites, Ballina has scored very well and there were no heavily littered ones. With regard to the individual survey sites, Pearse Street was beautifully laid out, especially just outside the ‘olde’ style Library building. The Riverwalk – Cathedral Road, Humbert Street Car Park and Tom Ruane Town Park were all very much deserving of the top litter grade.**

**Foxford Approach Road: Grade A.** A welcoming approach, creating a positive first impression of Ballina. Signage, planting, road surface and pavements were in very good order. Efforts had been made to minimise the visual impact of some vacant properties on the right-hand side. There were no visible litter issues throughout.

**N59 Crossmolina Approach Road: Grade B.** There were simply too many loose litter items along this route for the top litter grade. Items were mostly food related e.g., coffee cups, plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers mineral cans and some alcohol cans. A welcome feature along the road was the brightly painted building on the right-hand side, close to the town.

**R314 Killala Approach Road: Grade A.** Road surface, markings and signage were in good condition and the overall impression was a positive and welcoming one.

**Mr Price, Crossmolina Road: Grade B.** The overall impression created at this site was of a littered environment. As well as casually discarded food related items, there was a discarded wooden crate and some industrial plastic wrapping. Litter was particularly noticeable around the service entrance.

**‘Bring Bank’, Market Square Street Car Park: Grade B.** This small facility was freshly presented but let down by casual users who have discarded cardboard boxes and a bag of cans at the base of the units. This is likely to attract similar behaviour from future users of the facility.

**Riverwalk – Cathedral Road: Grade A.** A damp day, following heavy rainfall, has resulted in river running very fast and very high along this stretch. All features along Cathedral Road were freshly presented and well maintained e.g., dog fouling notices, litter bins, colourful planter boxes, life-belts, visitor information signage etc. It was a pity that the small ‘Climate Action’ notice to the rear of one of the seats was rendered illegible due to a sticker. Apart from a couple of incidents of dog fouling, there were no other litter issues of note.

**Pearse Street: Grade A.** The streetscape directly outside the Library building was fantastic – lovely paving, sculpture feature, seating, tree planting, notices of historic interest etc. The entire street was exceptionally good with regards to litter – spotless throughout. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the various closed down / vacant premises as there was no litter directly associated with same – some efforts had been made to minimise the visual impact of these buildings.

**Jackie Clarke Collection – exterior: Grade A.** The redbrick building and immediate environs were very attractively presented and maintained. Access to the ‘park’ / outdoor space was closed due to a temporary exhibition. There were no litter issues in the immediate area.

**Humbert Street Car Park: Grade A.** The car park surface / signage / markings were in good condition and there were only minor litter items in one corner, planted area. Care needs to be taken that this isolated area doesn’t attract further litter.

**Tom Ruane Town Park: Grade A.** A wonderful expanse of park space incorporating lovely wooden playground equipment, playing pitch and tennis courts. The blue wooden benches could be much improved with a coat of paint. Apart from the benches, the remainder of the park features were in good condition e.g. signage, playground equipment, life-belts, litter bins etc. The whole area was excellent with regards to litter.