

Carlow: 20th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed.

A much-improved result for Carlow, especially compared to a number of years ago. Top-ranking sites included the approach roads, Recycle Facility at Askea Church Car Park, Potato Market and Penney's Shopping Centre – the latter was particularly freshly presented and maintained. By far the two most heavily littered sites were Mr Price and Home Savers – both had very obvious and seemingly 'long-lie' litter, indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time.

Castlecomer Approach Road: Grade A. A freshly presented approach route, creating a positive first impression of Carlow town. Attractive planting at Castlecomer Road Roundabout looked very well.

Home Savers Car Parking areas: Grade C+. There was a persistent litter presence around the perimeter of the car parking areas, much of it seemingly 'long-lie', indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time. Most of the litter was food related, along with some cigarette butts. Graffiti was a feature on one wall. The previous issues at the billboard area have been addressed.

Recycle Facility at Askea Church Car Park: Grade A. A freshly presented 'Bring Facility' with bin units and signage associated with the usage of same in very good condition. There were minimal litter issues in the immediate environs, most caps / lids of bottles / jars.

R448 Dublin Road Approach: Grade A. This was an excellent tree-lined route in terms of presentation and maintenance. The 'Welcome to Carlow' signage with flowers looked well. The overall impression created along this route was a very welcoming one.

Castle View Quay: Grade B. Some very casually discarded food related items took away from an otherwise attractively presented environment e.g., paving, 'olde' style street lamps etc. looked very well. There were no obvious litter bins / litter awareness notices in the immediate area – perhaps the installation of same might help?

Penney's Shopping Centre: Grade A. Great care has been taken with the presentation of this environment. It's been attractively laid out with fresh looking paving and substantial planter boxes / floral displays. There were no obvious cigarette butt disposal facilities – the provision of same could prevent any further build-up of same.

Mr Price: Grade C+. While not quite as heavily littered as previous surveys, there was still a definite litter presence, in the car parking area perimeter / in the hedges / adjacent river's edge. A wide variety of food related items and cigarette butts were present.

Potato Market: Grade A. An attractively presented town centre environment with picnic tables, colourful planter boxes and tree planting. As well as the typical Big Belly litter bins, there was an adjoining dedicated Pizza Boxes Only Big Belly bin. Market stalls were operating on day of survey. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

Kennedy Street Car Park: Grade B+. It was great to see the large billboard advertisement asking people to 'Recycle Vapes in the Blue Bin' with an illustration of same. Much of the car park area was clear of litter, not so the back wall of the site – items included sweet paper, cigarette butts and chewing gum. There were no litter bins / litter awareness notices (apart from the large Vaping billboard).

Tullow Street: Grade A. A freshly presented shopping street, with no litter issues of note. Clean pavements looked very well. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the closed down / vacant properties as there was no litter directly associated with them.