

Cavan: 29th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered

While there were a couple of seriously littered sites, it was the low number of top-ranking sites which brought down Cavan's performance in the league. On a positive note, the Main Street was very much deserving of the top litter grade this time around. If some of the moderately littered sites could improve, it could make a big difference, overall. Care needs to be taken at the residential area of Ardkeen – much of it was maintained very well and clear of litter but there was one isolated area which has been subject to dumping.

Cavan Retail Park: Grade A. Individual units were well maintained and there was minimal litter throughout this retail park environment. There were several litter bins but no obvious cigarette butt units.

Car Park, Cavan Retail Park: Grade B. The overall impression of this car park was a littered one with a variety of food related items, cigarette butts, alcohol cans and some tissues. Items were scattered on car park surface. The marginal planted area was litter free.

R212 Approach: Grade C. (from Roundabout at Retail Park to junction with R935). This site was by far the most heavily littered one surveyed in Cavan. Much of it appeared 'long-lie', indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time. Main items were food related, along with cardboard cartons and various miscellaneous items. There was no one particular area which was littered, just a significant presence throughout.

Green Lough Nature Area: Grade B. There was some lovely colourful illustrated signage, and the overall impression of this natural amenity was of a well-maintained environment. However, there was a definite litter presence at this UNESCO GeoPark, particularly along the approach path which appears to be used as a 'drinking spot'. As well as the alcohol related items there were plastic bottles, plastic bags and mineral cans. Much of the litter was recent, so hopefully it will be addressed and doesn't build up any further.

Main Street: Grade A. A much-improved site compared to recent IBAL surveys – this time around the Main Street was very much deserving of the top litter grade. The raised planter beds / seating / paved area looked very well. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Recycle Facility: Grade A. A very freshly presented and maintained facility with bin units and signage relating to the usage of same in good condition. There wasn't the typical 'stuffing' of items between / behind / beneath the units as so often happens at similar facilities throughout the country. It was excellent with regards to litter.

Co. Cavan Swimming Pool / Leisure Centre: Grade B. On first impressions, the area appeared well attended. However, based on the variety of litter throughout the grounds of this facility, it would seem that the two galvanised buckets serving as litter bins were not sufficient. There was a wide variety of food and cigarette butt / vaping related litter visible. Perhaps the installation of litter awareness notices and provisions for the disposal of litter / cigarette butts might help?

Ardkeen: Grade C+. There are some lovely features at this residential area e.g. trees / planter boxes / low-lying planting and notice 'Please Don't Litter, Help Keep Your Community Clean' / 'Please Don't be a Litterbug, Help Keep Your Community Clean'. The majority of the area was freshly presented and maintained but it was impossible to ignore one area which is in danger of becoming a dumping ground – right beside a 'No Dumping' sign – this area is in sharp contrast to the rest of the development.

Ardkeen Road, approach: Grade B+. Not much effort is required for this road to get the top litter grade. Scattered food related items took away from an otherwise well-presented environment.

R188 Cootehill Approach Road: Grade B. The stretch of road closer to the town was generally fine with regards to litter. Items were more obvious further out of the town – mostly food related, along with dog fouling / bagged dog fouling and cigarette butts.