

Drogheda: 24th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

Great to see the big improvements earlier in 2023 have been sustained this time around. Some sites were not just good with regards to litter but very well presented and maintained e.g., River Quarter and West Street – both were very attractively laid out. There was some heavy hitting anti-litter notices at the Recycle / Bring Facility on King Street – broken glass to the front of the units and other items to the rear. While there was some improvement at Marley's Lane, it was the only heavily littered site this time around.

Dublin Road Approach: Grade B+. Driving this approach road appears excellent, a brilliant introduction to the town. Road surface, footpath and grassy area are immaculate. Small amounts of very well scattered litter predominately from 50kmh to Five Oaks. Small amounts of litter also in the beautiful shrubs. The most obvious litter type were the energy drink plastic bottles. Background environmental indicators were excellent.

Drogheda Train Station: Grade A. The large car park area was primarily clear of litter, bar some items in the disabled parking spots and at the road entrance. The double yellow lines parallel to the black bollards were faded / wearing away. The colourful visitor information notice presented well, and the covered bicycle parking area was in good order.

River Quarter: Grade B+. Beautiful location sandwiched between Scotch Hall and the River with nice iconic views of the town. The paving looked great, and area was enhanced by tree planting, colourful planter boxes, wooden picnic tables / seating and a couple of sculptures etc. Scattered amounts of litter in places, mostly close to the D Hotel and the pedestrian bridge. Starbucks outdoor area was immaculate and the flowers on the building of houses were lovely. Vape related litter did feature.

Shop Street: Grade A. Apart from some cigarette butts, particularly lodged in the cracks of the pavement and at the entrances to various premises, there were no litter issues along this short and narrow shopping street. Litter bins were in good condition.

Recycle Centre at King Street: Grade B. Signage associated with the use of this facility was in good order with one particularly hard-hitting Louth Co Co sign *'Why are you dumping here? I'm a Jerk / I don't care about this community / I think other people should pay to clean up after me – don't be a tosser – Dispose of your rubbish responsibly'*. There was broken glass at the front of the facility and a variety of litter items to the rear of the bins. Not far from the facility there were accumulations of cigarette butts on the wall separating the Car Park and King Street.

Scarlett Street: Grade B. A mix of residential and commercial with attractive paving and 'olde' style green directional signage. The stretch between Peggy Moores and Chadwicks was very clean, with the area surrounding Chadwicks particularly clean. Litter increased closer to the Cottage Hospital, with domestic rubbish at the entrance to Scarlett Crescent. Most obvious items were glass bottles and cigarette butts with lower levels of a wide variety of food related items.

West Street: Grade A. The streetscape along West Street was excellent e.g., paving, bicycle parking, street lamps, attractive shop fronts, seating, tree planting, bollards etc. The illustrative notice *'West Street / St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church is a lovely feature – includes a map and indicates how many minutes away various items of interest are'*. Overall, West Street was very much deserving of the top litter grade – as well as being beautifully laid out, it was spotless.

Marley's Lane: Grade C+. While there was some improvement at Marley's Lane, there were still pockets of accumulated litter throughout the area from the primary school to LMFM – most notably domestic dumping next to a bin (and anti-litter notice) at Aura. Lower levels were noted at St Olivers and close to the junction with Rathmullen Road. One type of dog fouling signage indicates the Maximum fine and *'Litter Louts – Don't Litter Louth'*. Another says *'Dog Waste, Bag It, Tie It, Bin It!'*

North Road approach: Grade A. A freshly presented approach route with road surface / markings / signage and orange bollards in good order. There were no visible litter issues throughout.

Marsh Road, approach: Grade B. There were notable improvements along this route but still some way to go to get the top litter grade. The 'Welcome to Drogheda' signage was accompanied by two anti-litter notices, one by Louth Co Co and the other by Drogheda Tidy Towns. As well as the wide variety of food related items, drug paraphernalia was present.