

Mallow: 2nd out of 40 towns / cities surveyed: Cleaner than European Norms.

Mallow's best-ever position in the IBAL rankings, with seven top ranking sites and the remaining three just shy of same. There were no heavily littered sites. Top-ranking sites included Tip O'Neill Park / Spa House grounds (wonderfully presented and maintained), Muddy Hill Car Park (replete with grotto and electricity Box Art), grounds of Mallow Castle and Riverwalk – an extensive path / amenity which was excellent with regards to litter. The Main Street had a seemingly high number of vacant / closed down / derelict buildings but apart from one, they hadn't become a magnet for litter, as can so easily happen. While these buildings presented poorly, the Main Street wasn't littered.

N72 Approach Road from M8: Grade A. A very freshly presented and maintained approach road creating a positive first impression of Mallow. Plenty of 'Welcome to Mallow' / 'Mallow Heritage Town' signage - all in very good order. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Tip O'Neill Park / Spa House grounds: Grade A. This small park was beautifully presented and maintained e.g., lovely wooden seating, water feature, natural wooden sculpture by Eilis O'Connell and lush vegetation. It was excellent with regards to litter. Visitor information signage at both entrances was in good order with plenty of historical features of note. All in all, a site very much deserving of the top litter grade.

Muddy Hill Car Park: Grade A. The car park surface / markings / within this small street level car park were in very good condition. Signage associated with the use of same was excellent. The 'Our Lady of Lourdes' grotto within the car park has been lovingly tended and the area around the seating / paved area was spotless. The electricity type box at the top of the car park had been brightly painted. Overall, a very clean and tidy car park environment.

Main Street: Grade A. (from the Library to junction with Food Capers Café junction with Emmet Street). Little has been done to minimise the visual impact of the seemingly high number of vacant / closed down / boarded up premises on this long stretch of main shopping thoroughfare. Clearly, they are closely monitored as there was no litter directly associated with them, bar one. The silver stainless steel street bins were fresh presented, and area was enhanced by colourful hanging baskets and ornamental tree planting. The 'olde' style street lamps outside the hotel were an attractive feature.

Araglen Approach: Grade B+. A rural route, with 'The Old Course' residential on the left as one comes towards Mallow. The route was so rural, that there were no directional signs. It was characterised by some 'long-lie' plastic bags trapped in the trees / shrubbery and food related items.

Mallow Castle: Grade A. The approach to the grounds and the signage at the entrance were excellent - there was a complete absence of litter in this area. Dog fouling signage reminds the public that it is a health hazard. Extensive visitor information notice at the main approach presented very well.

N72 Killarney Approach Road: Grade B+. (From Mallow Racecourse in to next roundabout) Plenty of 'Welcome to Mallow' / 'Mallow twinned with' signage. Nice picnic area on the left-hand side as one approaches the town. Apart from food related items e.g., coffee cups, sweet papers, fast-food wrappers and plastic bags, the road was generally well presented.

Market Square Shopping Centre: Grade B+. A freshly presented town centre shopping centre environment - paving, seating, litter bins, signage etc were in very good condition. Much of the centre was clear of litter - any items to be found were along both stairwells leading down. Mostly food and cigarette / vaping related litter.

Mallow Campus: Grade A. The signage at the front of the grounds was freshly presented and the area visible from the gate was spotless. There was no litter issue directly outside the grounds of Mallow Campus.

Riverwalk at Mallow Castle Park and Angling Stands: Grade A. A wonderful amenity with extensive walking trail - the whole area was exceptionally good with regards to litter. Signage associated with Angling Stands was clear and freshly presented. Life-belts were in good order. There were minimal graffiti issues. Excellent visuals on the anti-litter notice with pictures of duck, fish and squirrel - 'If you don't pick up your rubbish, these locals will - Respect Beautiful Mallow'.