

Sligo: 3rd out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

An excellent result for Sligo – its best ever position in the IBAL rankings. There were several examples of Tidy Towns work throughout the town e.g., Tidy Towns 2022 success along Carrowroe / Pearse Road, 'Tidy Towns' Bee Friendly signage on the railings of Sligo Sports and Leisure Centre and 'Tidy Towns' signage at the small Bring Centre along Cranmore Road. O'Connell Street was particularly freshly presented and maintained and there were some lovely features along the River Walk (JF Kennedy Parade / Rockwood Parade). Sligo Retail Park was spotless. Sligo Regional Park continues to provide new features (e.g., Amphitheatre) and all aspects within the park were in excellent order. The one blot on the landscape was the heavily littered Mall Car Park – it presented poorly with litter lining the perimeter.

Riverwalk: Grade A. JF Kennedy Parade / Rockwood Parade. This stretch of the riverwalk was attractively presented with seating, planting and good visitor information noticeboard. There were marine themed engravings at the base of the stone seating and a new 1916-2023 Memorial at the end of the Quay. Life-belts were in good condition. Overall, this site was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

O'Connell Street: Grade A. The paving along O'Connell Street was particularly fresh in appearance, very much positively contributing to the overall impression created. Area was further enhanced by substantial planter boxes. An isolated area which had been notably littered in previous litter survey was not littered on this most recent visit.

R287 Carrowroe / Pearse Road Approach: Grade A. This route creates an excellent first impression of Sligo with extra tree planting and a general air of being well cared for. Tidy Towns 2022 success signage welcomes any visitors along this route. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order with no visible litter issues throughout.

Sligo Retail Park: Grade A. An exceptionally freshly presented large expanse of retail space – it was excellent with regards to litter. Litter bins, with adjoining 'recycle' bins were in abundance throughout the line of shop entrances. Car park area was particularly fresh.

N15 Derry Approach Road: Grade A. This tree-lined route looked very well with the remnants of wonderful autumnal colours throughout. Lush grass lined the route. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout. Apart from some occasional plastic wrapping, this road was very good with regards to litter.

'Bring Centre' Cranmore Road: Grade A. (beside Active Life Pharmacy). A small 'Bring' Facility with a mix of a few clothing and bottle / can units which were flush against the back wall, preventing the 'stuffing' of items which so often happens at other facilities. The Tidy Towns signage associated with the use of the facility was somewhat obscured by the heavy growth but the stickers on the bins were legible and clear. This facility was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

The Mall Car Park: Grade C+. This 'Sligo Borough Council' car park was in sharp contrast to all of the other sites surveyed in Sligo. A variety of litter and other miscellaneous items lined the perimeter of the car park. It is likely to become even more heavily littered if not addressed. Other items included the base of a couple of street cones. Litter wasn't confined to the perimeter.

Sligo Regional Park: Grade A. This wonderful expanse of parkland has been further enhanced since first visit in 2023 – the most recent addition is the 'Amphitheatre', combined with the opportunity for BBQs. The bins were mostly located at the seating areas throughout the park. Area is well served by litter bins and all aspects of the area surveyed were in excellent condition e.g., seating, litter bins, bike parking, visitor information notices, war memorial etc. It was spotless throughout.

Sligo Regional Sports Centre grounds: Grade A. The railings at the front had a couple of Tidy Towns 'Bee Friendly' signs. The small 'Bring Centre' within the grounds was spotless. There were no obvious litter issues in the grounds of this sports facility.

Dooley Park: Grade A. A lovely park environment with playground, PE equipment, small playing field, and large-scale electronics games. Pathway, signage and all features within the park were in good order – there was a complete absence of litter throughout.