

Carlow: 18th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

A very strong result for Carlow with six top ranking sites, with two just shy of this category. Top ranking sites included the residential area of Castlewood Gardens, Potato Market (& Environs) and the Recycle Bring Centre at Carlow Bus Park – the latter was particularly freshly presented and maintained. The Industrial Estate was also top-ranking, a much improved site compared to previous surveys. The two heavily littered sites were the improvised layby on the R448 and Mr Price – the latter has regularly been poor, with only minimal improvement noted this time around.

Recycle Bring Bank - Carlow Bus Park: Grade A. An exceptionally clean 'Bring Facility'. The bin units and signage associated with the use of same were in excellent condition. It was spotless – a template for a Grade A site. Well done to all concerned.

Underground Car Park, Carlow Shopping Centre: Grade A. Apart from chewing gum, there was a complete absence of litter in this car park.

Tullow Street: Grade B+. (from junction with The Potato Market to Staplestown Road) If it wasn't for the abundance of cigarette butts, this would have been a top ranking site. It would seem that there are insufficient facilities for the disposal of same, particularly given the number of bars / pubs etc. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the various closed down / vacant premises as there was no litter directly associated with them.

Castlewood Gardens: Grade A. The residential area of Castlewood Gardens was very much deserving of the top litter grade. As well as being excellent with regards to litter, there was some colourful low-lying planting at the tiny roundabout.

Industrial Estate - Bothair Ui Bhriain: Grade A. A much-improved site compared to previous IBAL surveys. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Deerpark Roundabout: Grade A. This roundabout and immediate environs creates a very positive first impression of Carlow. It was in excellent order. Tidy and well attended floral displays / flower beds certainly add to the environment.

Homesavers Car Park: Grade B+. This site has regularly been heavily littered over many years – this time around there was a notable improvement. Cigarette butts were the most obvious items, with lower levels of sweet papers and chewing gum. Hopefully this improvement can be sustained.

Mr Price Shopping / Car Park: Grade C+. While there has been a tiny improvement at this site, it hasn't been sufficient to raise it any higher than a Grade C+. A corner area presents poorly with very obvious litter presence. While efforts appear to have been made, clearly more is required, on an ongoing basis.

Potato Market - Fountain / Seating: Grade A. The Potato Market and immediate environs were in good order, albeit the water within the fountain was a strange colour.

Improvised Layby on R448: Grade C+. (between M9 junction and Prumpelstown Road / Cross) This site presents poorly, an 'unofficial sort of parking area' with significant litter levels, all food related e.g. sweet wrappers, mineral cans, fast-food wrappers and plastic bottles. Much of it was seemingly 'long-lie' indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time.