

Drogheda: 20th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

It is great to see continued improvement in Drogheda compared for just a few years ago. This doesn't just happen overnight - well done to all concerned. Six out of the ten sites surveyed got the top litter grade, with just one heavily littered site. It was encouraging to note improvements at the N51 Approach – this time around it was very much deserving of the top litter grade, along with Trinity Street, Marley Lane and M1 Retail Park. By far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Drogheda was Fair Street – it was let down by significant litter levels in a series of basements.

Abbey Car Park: Grade B. The main car park surface area and overall impression was generally good with regards to litter – it was the litter at the base of the hedges which brought down the litter grade. Car park signage was excellent. While the derelict / run down premises present poorly, there was no litter directly associated with them.

R132 Town Ring Road: Grade A. This route creates a positive first impression of Drogheda – road surface / markings / signage were in good order and there were no visible litter issues throughout. Pavements, kerbs, traffic islands and bus stops were clean.

St. Dominick's Bridge & Environs: Grade B+. An attractively presented riverside environment with lovely wooden seating, planter boxes, paving etc. which was let down by very casually discarded coffee cups and plastic bottles. With a little extra care and attention this could easily be a top ranking site.

West Street: Grade A. (from Westgate to junction with Dominic Street) There were significant numbers of planter boxes lining this stretch of West Street, perhaps to reduce the visual impact of the large numbers of neglected / derelict sites, some of which had substantial greenery sprouting. Clearly a careful eye is kept on them as there was no litter directly associated with same. Streetscape was excellent e.g. paving, planting, street-lamps, litter bins etc.

Fair Street: Grade C. This site was by far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Drogheda. Street level litter was Grade B+ level but it was the significant accumulations in a series of basements which really brought down the litter grade – heavy levels of a wide variety of food related items prevailed. Why not follow the example of other local authorities around the country e.g. Limerick City Co. who have attached litter law signage to similar sites?

Bring Centre, Trinity Street: Grade B. This small and neatly presented facility was let down by some broken glass at the base of the units, sweet wrappers and cardboard. Signage asks *'Why are you dumping rubbish here? I'm a jerk / I don't care about this community / I think other people should pay to clean up after me'*.

Marley Lane: Grade A. A freshly presented road with all aspects in very good order e.g. road surface, paving, grass / planted areas etc. A busy site at time of survey and still very much deserving of the top litter grade.

M1 Retail Park: Grade A. All aspects of this extensive site were in good condition e.g. paving to the front of the stores, stainless steel bollards, signage, seating etc. It was excellent with regards to litter.

Trinity Street: Grade A. There were no visible litter issues along this approach route. Kerbs, pavements and road surfaces were clean.

N51 Approach: Grade A. (from M1 junction to Hill of Rath Roundabout) This route was very much deserving of the top litter grade and improved on previous IBAL surveys. Previously there was an area where it seemed that litter had come from parked cars – not so, this time around.