

Longford: 35th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered.

There were just three top ranking sites in Longford this time around – quite the drop for a former IBAL winner. Pig Market Lane was one of those very much deserving of the top litter grade – it was very attractively presented and maintained with an absence of litter throughout. It was encouraging to see the Recycle Bank at Market Square so well presented. The residential area of Congress Terrace was mixed – the majority of homes were in very good order but there were too many vacant / boarded up premises which harboured heavy levels of a wide variety of litter. Market Square has some attractive planting – unfortunately this was choked with litter. Congress Terrace was a litter blackspot.

L1175 Connaught Road: Grade B+. (from Fiddlemaster 'Blind' Kiernan Roundabout into junction with Main Street). There wasn't a huge amount of litter but too many food related items e.g. fast-food wrappers, coffee cups, sweet paper and other items e.g. car parts. There were a number of vacant / boarded up premises, some of which presented quite poorly, heavily weeded and with an air of neglect. The business premises on the right-hand side were clean and well attended.

Main Street: Grade B. Litter items were generally small along Main Street, mostly food related, along with chewing gum, cigarette butts and plastic ties on the ground. Items were both on the pavement and along the kerbs. The colourful planter boxes were freshly presented and looked very well. With a little extra effort this could easily be a top-ranking site.

Pig Market Lane: Grade A. This was an exceptionally freshly presented town centre environment with outdoor seating and large planters. It was attractively paved and very well maintained. A colourful map details the historic nature of this site. There was a complete absence of litter throughout.

Market Square: Grade C+. The raised planter beds appear new, adding some welcome greenery in an otherwise urban space. Wooden seating was in good condition but the majority of the litter at Market Square was in and around the seating i.e. at the base / in the surrounding planted areas. All manner of food related items were present, along with heavy levels of cigarette butts in an adjacent corner. Clearly a more thorough approach to cleaning this whole area is required as sweeping alone won't address the littered shrubbery.

Recycle Bank, Market Square: Grade A. The recycle bin units were very fresh in appearance. Signage associated with the use of same: 'You have done the right thing so far, PLEASE FINISH THE JOB, Take your bags & cardboard boxes with you and help to keep this facility clean and tidy'. A separate, typed up sign indicates that an incident of dumping is being investigated. This facility was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

Harbour Point: Grade C. While the open grass area of this residential development was generally well tended and almost litter free, the same couldn't be said of the shrubbery. It wasn't just the typical food related items but also large pieces of plastic, cardboard, clothing, soiled disposable nappies and cigarette cartons. There didn't appear to be any visible litter bins / litter awareness notices – perhaps the installation of same may help?

Hazelwood Shopping Centre: Grade A. All was in good order at this shopping centre environment. It was freshly presented and excellent with regards to litter. The Deposit Return Scheme was spotless.

N63 Killashee Approach Road: Grade B+. Road surface / markings / signage were in good condition and there were minimal litter levels along this route. Overall impression was generally good but brought down by food related litter in shrubbery area.

Congress Terrace: Grade D. A mixed site, where the majority of the occupied houses appear to be well cared for with colourful front gardens. However, there were numerous vacant / boarded up properties which harboured heavy levels of a wide variety of litter and other miscellaneous items – a situation like this is only likely to attract further littering / dumping - where does responsibility for these properties lie?

Park Road: Grade B. A pleasant approach to the town, spoiled by scattered litter along the way – all items were food related e.g. plastic bottles, mineral cans, fast-food wrappers and sweet paper.