

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

An excellent result for Monaghan, one of its best ever over many years of inclusion in the IBAL Anti-Litter League. Nine out of the ten sites surveyed got the top litter grade – examples of these included Monaghan Retail Park, Bring Centre at Town Centre Car Park, Monaghan Model School and Dublin Street - well done to all concerned. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the derelict site along R186 Tydavnet Road / Scotstown Road as there was no visible litter associated with it. The residential area of Woodlands was exceptionally freshly presented and maintained.

R189 Newbliss Approach Road: Grade A. (from speed signs in to junction with Clones Road) The road surface / markings / signage were in good order and the overall presentation of this route was very good, creating a positive first impression of Monaghan town. This high standard was sustained for all, bar one, of the remaining sites surveyed.

Monaghan United Football Club: Grade A. Apart from one coffee cup and a sweet wrapper, this site was excellent with regards to litter. Some areas were more freshly presented than others, but the overall impression was very good with regards to litter.

R186 Tydavnet Road / Scotstown Road: Grade A. This route presents well with all aspects in good order. The light blue wooden seating is a nice feature, albeit a little grubby, not very inviting. There was a large old house which has fallen into disrepair (broken windows etc.) with significant foliage growing from within – there didn't appear to be litter associated with this site.

Woodlands: Grade A. The residential area of 'Woodlands' was exceptionally freshly presented and maintained with individual grass area / communal spaces in very good condition. A lovely feature is the raised 'Bird House' by the wooden fencing. Area was further enhanced by brightly colored tulips. Based on the number of footballs, the playing field is a popular one.

Bring Facility at Town Centre Car Park: Grade A. A neatly presented facility with most of the bin units / signage associated with the use of same in good order - the 'blue' cans bin was somewhat grubby. There was a litter bin right beside the units. It was noted that the containers were being emptied at the time of the survey with all of the units being emptied into one lorry, thereby mixing up all the carefully separated coloured glass – to the surprise of one citizen standing by.

Monaghan Retail Park: Grade A. There was lovely paving underfoot surrounding the perimeter of the building – right beneath the trolley bays – this was sparkling. The entrance was spotless. Seating / litter bins within the shopping centre were in very good condition. This expansive retail environment was spotless throughout.

Ulster Canal Walk: Grade B+. (Section surveyed was from Castle Road to Glen Road) This facility can be accessed by foot from the town centre. Signage associated with it was in very good condition. The nature of the site is such that it is 'naturally' presented rather than immaculately maintained - moorhens were spotted on the water. Most of the litter was food related e.g. coffee cups, plastic bottles, mineral cans and sweet wrappers, along with some dog fouling.

Main Street / Dublin Street: Grade A. The overall impression created along this shopping street was a very clean and tidy one. There was a series of almost half a dozen closed down / vacant premises – clearly a careful eye is kept on them as there was no litter directly associated with them. 'Flowers by Hughes' had colourful display outside, creating a great impression.

Monaghan Model School: Grade A. Not only was this site excellent with regards to litter – it was a lovingly tended environment in mature planting / setting – all were seemingly appropriately maintained.

The Grange Road – Approach: Grade A. (from Milltown junction into traffic lights at Hospital) There was a virtual absence of litter along this well-maintained route. The overall impression was a very positive one.