

Portlaoise: 17th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

A very strong result for Portlaoise, with seven out of the ten sites surveyed getting the top litter grade. These included Main Street (exceptionally clean and tidy), Hinde Square and various approach routes. Improvements were noted at Pepper Lane though it was still somewhat littered. By far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Portlaoise was Harper's Lane & environs – while a series of houses had been demolished, there was a large expanse of green space which harboured significant litter.

N80 Mountmellick Approach Road: Grade A. This hedge lined route was very good with regards to litter, creating a positive first impression of Portlaoise.

Main Street: Grade A. An exceptionally clean and tidy main shopping street. Cleaning regime would appear to be very thorough, there was a complete absence of litter throughout.

Hinde Square: Grade A. This mixed-use environment was freshly presented. Retail spaces were in good order, with housing close-by. It was spotless.

Pepper Lane: Grade B. While not as heavily littered as some previous IBAL surveys, there was still a definite presence. The overall impression was of an area which lacked a thorough cleaning e.g heavy leaf accumulations in a corner, with litter atop. Graffiti was also a feature, along with crumbling masonry and some glass.

Butlers House - Pepper Lane: Grade A. Clearly a careful eye is kept on this series of closed down premises as there was no litter directly associated with them. The original buildings, with semi-classical frontages / façade could be so elegant, under the correct conditions. A baby's buggy had seemingly been abandoned close by.

Portlaoise Train Station – Exterior: Grade B. The overall impression at the exterior of the train station was of an area which lacked a thorough cleaning, particularly in various corner locations. Some items were food related, along with cigarette butts. There were no visible litter bins / cigarette butt units.

Portlaoise Train Station – Interior: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along the station platform and within the waiting room. This area is well served by litter bins. All aspects of the station were in good order.

Harper's Lane & Environs: Grade C. This was by far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Portlaoise. However, change is afoot, with the demolition of a series of derelict houses (Mountain View) – potentially new developments to take place. There's a large expanse of green space beside this – there were heavy levels of alcohol cans, plastic bottles and dog fouling, with lower levels of general paper and plastic. The overall impression was a poor one.

Bring Facility - Laois County Council Building: Grade A. This small and neatly arranged facility got the top litter grade, but only just. There were some bottle tops on the ground and a plastic bag stuffed between the units.

Towards N77 from Portlaoise – approach: Grade A. A freshly presented route with road surface / markings / signage and grass area to the side in very good order. There were no visible litter issues throughout.