

Sligo: 8th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

Another excellent result for Sligo, with no heavily littered sites and eight out of the ten sites surveyed getting the top litter grade. These included all the approach roads, residential area of Oaklawn, JFK / Rockbrook Parade (riverwalk), Bring Facility at Borough Car Park on Connaughton Road and O'Connell Street – the latter was looking particularly well, much enhanced by attractive paving and wonderful on-street planters. The Mall Car Park had been heavily littered in 2023 – the overall impression improved somewhat this time around, but it still requires a more thorough approach to cleaning.

Pearse Road: Grade A. (From Sligo Park Hotel) a freshly presented route with dedicated cycle path. Road surface / markings were in very good condition. This route certainly creates a very positive first impression of Sligo town. Seating area on the right-hand side was a nice feature.

Oak Lawn: Grade A. There was a complete absence of litter throughout this residential development. Rockery on the right-hand side was a lovely feature. A series of painted flower boxes were awaiting planting. Individual planted areas and communal green spaces were spotless.

JFK / Rockwood Parade: Grade A. A lovely town-centre riverwalk environment which has been well maintained. Tree coverage provides shelter for those relaxing in the seating on a warm May morning. Very good visitor information notices along JFK Parade. There were a few separate incidents of graffiti on various surfaces. Plant boxes along the riverside of the railings on Rockbrook Parade were empty / awaiting planting. Cigarette butts were noted at the base of seating.

Stephen Street: Grade B+. Coming from the direction of the Glasshouse Hotel, any litter items to be seen were on the right-hand side. The litter was not associated with the pavement works which were taking place. The opposite side of the road, with the statue, was spotless.

Bring Facility, Borough Car Park, Connaughton Road: Grade A. A very neatly presented and maintained facility with the recycle bin units 'flush' against the wall, reducing the opportunity to 'stuff' items to the rear. As well as signage associated with the use of the facility, there were HI (Healthy Ireland) signs indicating recommended alcohol units' consumption per week / illustrating what a unit of alcohol actually is. Separate signage illustrated various fast-food items and the calories associated with same.

O'Connell Street: Grade A. O'Connell Street was looking great, enhanced by lovely paving / colourful planter boxes. It was exceptionally clean. Attractive directional signage; nice planting at the bridge end of O'Connell Street, with plaque highlighting O'Connell Street enhancement scheme.

Sligo Bus Station: Grade A. A freshly presented and well-maintained bus station environment. It was great to see the opportunity to 'separate' waste into recycling, along with regular bins. The overall impression was a very good one with regards to litter.

Rosses Point Approach Road: Grade A. (From Sligo town signage to main junction) All appeared in good order along this narrowish approach route. There was no obvious litter presence.

The Mall Car Park: Grade B. While not as heavily littered as last IBAL survey in 2023, there was still a litter presence around the perimeter of the car park, including significant broken glass (looks like a smashed car window). Machine operated sweepers can't easily access these areas, it's more of a manual exercise.

N15 Derry Approach Road: Grade A. A very freshly presented main route into Sligo. Road surface / markings / signage / bicycle path were all in very good condition. Abundant mature / lush planting on either side of the road looked very well. There was no visible litter throughout.