

## An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Survey 2, 2024

**Athlone: Clean to European Norms. 25<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed.**

Five of the sites surveyed in Athlone got the top litter grade – these included the residential area of Talbot Avenue, Ranelagh Way Shannon Banks Nature Trail and Athlone Poets on Athlone Canal (a wonderful celebration of local poets in a waterside environment). R446 / Dublin Rod was let down by a derelict site beside Real Deal Barber – this was heavily littered and took away from other premises which were well presented and in good order.

**R914 approach: Grade B+.** (speed limit signs in to roundabout at Ganleys) The overall impression along this route was quite a good one, with all aspects in good order. Main litter items were food related e.g. coffee cups, fast-food wrappers etc. and cigarette butts.

**R914 (b) Roscommon Road: Grade A.** There was a virtual absence of litter along this route. Large planter boxes were a welcome feature.

**Talbot Avenue: Grade A.** All was in good order at this residential area with no litter in sight. Signage, memorial, street bin were in good condition.

**Ranelagh Way Shannon Banks Nature Trail: Grade A.** Excellent signage, and a dinghy boat has been re-purposed as a large planter box are lovely features along this walk. It was excellent with regards to litter.

**Athlone Poets on Athlone Canal: Grade A.** A wonderful celebration of local poets in a waterside environment. Signage and all features were in very good condition. A lovely amenity for tourists and locals alike.

**Athlone Bus Station: Grade B.** The built environment was in good condition e.g. paving, seating etc with the overall impression generally a good one with regards to litter. However, there were significant accumulations of cigarette butts, particularly underneath the seating and lower levels of sweet papers and mineral cans. Perhaps the provision of cigarette butt units at the seating may address the issue?

**Blyry Industrial Estate / Business Park: Grade B+.** The majority of business / industrial areas presented well with picnic tables on the grass and a generally tidy impression, apart from one piece of furniture. One unit appeared somewhat neglected while the remainder were very well maintained.

**R916 from Roundabout at Athlone Veterinary Hosp.: Grade B.** This route was let down by scattered pieces of a wide variety of food related items, along with cigarette butts. There were no items particularly prevalent, just a general presence of same

**R446 / Dublin Road: Grade C.** A derelict site beside Real Deal Barber was heavily littered, creating a very poor impression in the general vicinity. Other premises were well tended and in good order.

**Deposit Return Scheme - Dunnes Stores: Grade A.** This 'stand-alone' facility was freshly presented and in good order.