

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

Carlow: Moderately Littered. 29th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed.

A disappointing result for Carlow after recent improvement - a couple of survey sites just missed the top litter grade e.g. Tullow Street and Askea Church Carpark Bring Centre – not much effort is required for the latter to become top ranking. The heavily littered sites appeared to lack general maintenance / cleaning regime – e.g. Carlow Train Station, Riverbank (at Mr Price) and Mr Price. The Riverbank suffered from significant levels of alcohol related litter. Mr Price presented poorly with a general air of a heavy litter presence throughout.

Askea Church Carpark Bring Centre: Grade B+. The recycle bin units and the signage associated with the usage of same were freshly presented. Overall, this facility presented quite well, just small amounts of litter between the units brought down the litter grade. As well as the usual visual signage, there was a motion activated audio message.

O'Hanrahan Avenue: Grade A. The residential area of O'Hanrahan Avenue presented well with no obvious litter issues throughout.

Homesavers Shopping / Tullow Street Car Park: Grade B. There was a moderate level of litter throughout this site, mostly shopping receipts, sweet wrappers and plastic bags. There didn't appear to be any litter bins in the immediate vicinity. Torn paper from the billboard in the car park presents poorly. The whole area looks like it lacked it needed a thorough cleaning.

R448 from Carlow Town Amenity Trust: Grade B. The overall impression created along this road was generally quite a good one with 'Welcome' signage and colourful planting. However, there were too many litter items at the hedges / kerbs / pavements for the top litter grade.

Carlow Train Station: Grade C+. The most prevalent litter items were food related e.g. plastic bottles, mineral cans and sweet wrappers, with lower levels of fast-food wrappers and cigarette butts. It was particularly obvious at the base of the 'Bolt' bicycle parking, train tracks, car parks, taxi rank and building entrance. The general feeling was of a site which needed a thorough cleaning. The visitor information signage was freshly presented and in good order.

Sleaty Road Roundabout to Castlecomer Roundabout: Grade A. A freshly presented route with an abundance of greenery. Road surface, markings and signage were in good order.

Tullow Street: Grade B+. Much of the 're-vamped' streetscape looked very well e.g. colourful planter boxes, wooden seating, attractive paving, outdoor dining areas etc. Chewing gum was particularly obvious on the 'older' pavement, with lower amounts of sweet papers and cigarette butts also present.

Riverbank: Grade C. (adjacent to Mr Price) There were significant litter issues along this stretch of the river, a mix of food and alcohol related items (glass bottles). The level of litter was such that it does not bode well for wildlife. This area needs attention before 'attracting' further litter.

Mr Price: Grade C+. A poor and untidy impression prevailed at this shopping & car park environment. As well as persistent litter throughout, there was some dumping at the end of the car park – a paper bag of Red Bull cans had been discarded.

Athy Road: Grade A. Athy Road Roundabout was particularly freshly presented, creating a positive first impression for any visitors arriving to Carlow along this route. The remainder of the route was in very good order.