

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

Castlebar: Clean to European Norms. Joint 14th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed.

Top-ranking sites in Castlebar included the approach routes, Market Car Park and Main Street – the latter has been attractively presented and maintained with lovely paving / tree planting etc. By far the most heavily littered site surveyed was a Lane off Cavendish Lane – it presents very poorly with overflowing industrial wheely bins / wooden pallet and large piece of plastic wrapping.

Main Street: Grade A. The main shopping street of Bridge Street / Market Street was excellent with regards to litter. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the numerous vacant / closed down premises as there was no litter directly associated with them. There was lovely paving throughout, and tree planting certainly added to the overall impression.

Road between Westport Road and N5 Dublin direction: Grade A. All was in good order along this route, passing through a series of roundabouts, with no obvious litter issues

Westport Road: Grade A. Lush vegetation lines this route. Road surfaces was in good order and the overall impression was a positive one with a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Approach N5 - Dublin direction: Grade A. A very fresh and welcoming approach route into Castlebar with attractive and colourful planting and vegetation. All aspects were in very good order - there was no obvious litter presence.

Lidl: Grade B+. The main car park surface was freshly presented and enhanced with tree planting along the pedestrian pathways. Minor litter issues were visible on the ground in the trolley bay, in some trolleys and on the ground just in front of the entrance. Not much effort is required for the top litter grade.

Castlebar Town Park: Grade B+. The play equipment / playground / PE equipment were all in good order in this lovely park environment. The majority of this expanse of green space was very good with regards to litter but it was impossible to ignore the stretch of park which lined the river - mostly food related items e.g. plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers and sweet papers were seen here.

Deposit Return Scheme - Dunnes Stores: Grade A. This 'in-store' facility was freshly presented with no litter in the immediate vicinity. Signage reminds users that the bin provided is not for general rubbish.

Market Car Park: Grade A. A very large and exceedingly busy car park with cars 'circling' around, awaiting spaces. The whole area was very good with regards to litter. Car park surface, markings and signage were very good with regards to litter. Tidy Towns planting at the at the base of the trees is a lovely feature.

Lane off Cavendish Lane: Grade C. This very short laneway was at the junction of 'Breadski Brothers' but no name on laneway. Industrial wheely bins were overflowing, along with bags stuffed between large blue bin and a smaller blue wheely bin. Also discarded shopping trolley. Large amount of plastic wrapping and wooden pallets lay on the ground, surrounded by a pool of red coloured liquid.

Bring Facility at Castlebar Swimming Pool: Grade B. A small 'on-street' facility with units associated with use of same in good condition. Items (not related to recycling) had been left on top of / between the units and there was a bag of rubbish left at the base of a tree in the immediate vicinity of the facility.