

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

**Mallow: Clean to European Norms. 21<sup>st</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed.**

A notable drop compared to the last few IBAL surveys of Mallow, with just three top ranking sites this time around. On a positive note, Discount Chemist & Environs was much improved compared to a previous IBAL litter survey, albeit still somewhat littered. The Deposit Return Scheme at Aldi was brought down by a bag of 'dumped' plastic bottles / cans left within the facility. Mallow Train Station could easily get the top litter grade if the cigarette butt issue was addressed – there didn't appear to be any facility for the disposal of same. By far the most heavily littered site was Church View Play Area & Environs.

**R619 Approach: Grade A.** (from junction N20 West) There was a virtual absence of litter along this tree-lined route. All aspects were in good order e.g. road surface / markings / signage and pavement.

**Deposit Return Scheme – Aldi: Grade B.** The overall impression at this 'stand-alone' facility was somewhat littered. Loose sweet wrappers were present, along with a bag of cans and plastic bottles left on the ground.

**Old Cork Road: Grade B.** This approach route was characterised by scattered litter along the footpath / grass verges, primarily sweet wrappers with lower levels of other food related items, e.g. coffee cups. Cigarette butts were also present. There wasn't any litter directly associated with the large closed down / vacant premises.

**Church View Play Area & Environs: Grade C+.** There were very obvious litter levels, both with the playground and at the base of the surrounding green fence outside. The grass area / children's football pitch also harboured litter. Items were primarily food related, along with cigarette butts and vapes. There was broken glass at car park close by.

**Mallow Train Station: Grade B+.** A freshly presented and maintained train station environment with associated car parking areas in good order. The main issue at this site were the accumulations of cigarette butts at the entrance to the station building – there didn't appear to be any cigarette butt units for the disposal of same.

**Thomas Davis Street: Grade B+.** A mixed street in terms of presentation of individual premises – some were in very good shape, a considerable number of others were derelict / boarded up – some of the litter was found in and around these buildings., but not large amounts. Most obvious litter was cigarette butts, with some food related litter.

**Carmichael Lane and Recycle Facility: Grade B.** The narrow laneway was characterised by graffiti and derelict buildings. There was plenty of signage related to the use of the 'Bring Facility' (some of it obscured by heavy green foliage) and where to go if the facility is full. This area was somewhat littered, with some food and alcohol related items, and broken glass on the ground.

**Discount Chemist & Environs: Grade B.** Much improved compared to previous IBAL litter survey, albeit still somewhat littered. This time around, the main concentration was near the front door and parking spaces close by.

**Shortcastle Street: Grade A.** Paving and street surface were particularly freshly presented along this 'mixed-use' street. The overall impression was of a clean and well maintained environment.

**N72 Approach Road: Grade A.** This route was very much deserving of the top litter grade, presenting a positive first impression of Mallow. It was spotless throughout. Litter awareness notice: *'If you don't pick up your rubbish, these locals will. Respect Beautiful Mallow'* with a picture of various land and water based wildlife.