

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

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

A very solid performance by Mullingar with eight out of the ten sites surveyed getting the top litter grade. These included all the approach routes, Mullingar Train Station and Oliver Plunkett Street – the latter was particularly good with regards to litter with the Market Square environment attractively presented and maintained. By far the most heavily littered site was the Recycle Facility at Main Car Park.

N52 Tullamore Approach Road: Grade A. A very freshly presented route into Mullingar with road surface, markings and signage in very good order, creating a positive first impression of the town. This high standard was maintained for almost all of the remaining sites surveyed.

Recycling at Main Car Park: Grade C. On first impressions, all appeared in good order with the bin units and signage associated with use of same in good condition. However, the area to the side and rear of the units was heavily littered with mineral cans, fast-food wrappers, plastic bags and sweet wrappers. This facility needs attention.

Canal Bank and footpath: Grade B. Litter levels within the water didn't appear as high as previous IBAL surveys but there was still a definite presence. Items were mostly food related, along with alcohol cans. There were light scatterings along the footpath – these items will most likely end up in the water if not removed.

Mullingar Train Station – Exterior: Grade A. A very freshly presented Victorian era train station environment with all aspects in very good order e.g. signage, planted area, paving, car-park etc. Apart from cigarette butts, it was excellent with regards to litter. There didn't appear to be any visible facility for the disposal of the butts.

Mullingar Train Station – Interior: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter within the station. Litter bins were solid and clean looking. The vinyl flooring was somewhat scuffed.

Longford Approach Road: Grade A. This route was very much deserving of the top litter grade – it was a credit to the town.

Derelict Site: Market Point by Far View Terrace: Grade A. As per Westmeath Co Co notice, this site has officially been deemed a 'Derelict Site'. While it presents poorly, with dangling wiring, it wasn't a littered one. Clearly a careful eye is kept on it.

Fair Green Shopping Centre: Grade A. The attractively paved area with seating / stainless steel bin & bollards looked very well. The overall impression at this shopping centre and car park environment was a very good one with a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Oliver Plunkett Street: Grade A. Large planter boxes with wrap-around seating looked very well – a lovely addition to any shopping street environment. Market House and immediate environs were excellent – a lovely public space. There were minimal litter issues throughout.

Approach to N4 by Hospital: Grade A. There were no litter issues along this heavily trafficked route. Overall presentation was very good.