

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

Naas: Cleaner than European Norms. 1st out of 40 towns / cities surveyed.

Well done Naas! This didn't happen overnight and it's a great result compared to the early days of IBAL surveys. A new addition to the survey sites was the recently opened Naas Plaza – spotless on the day of the IBAL survey. The Canal Bank / Basin environment wasn't just a waterside amenity but has been further expanded to include 'Naas Community Garden' with colourful low-lying planting. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the Derelict Site at Canal Basin as there was no litter directly associated with it.

Poplar Square: Grade A. There have been changes to the configuration of this space – most recently laid out as 'outdoor dining' and seating area with large planter boxes and an abundance of shrubbery at the base of the tree. The hanging baskets at 'Hayden's' were flourishing, a lovely feature. There was minimal litter throughout.

North and South Main Street: Grade A. Considering the length of this main shopping area, there was remarkably little litter throughout. The many fine buildings were in good condition. Minor litter items were confined to the gutters / edges of shops. The floral themed painting of what looks like a traffic light box adds a lovely splash of colour.

Naas Plaza: Grade A. A very new development (August 2024) which has been attractively laid out with lovely paving / large tree planting to the front. While officially opened, there are many outlets which are awaiting tenants. The area to the front was spotless.

Moat Mall: Grade A. Apart from low levels of cigarette butts, this shopping environment was excellent with regards to litter. Individual units were freshly presented.

Blessington Approach Road: Grade A. There were no litter issues along this tree-lined approach to Naas. All aspects were in very good order and the overall impression was a very positive one – this high standard was maintained throughout the sites surveyed in Naas.

R445 Dublin Road Approach: Grade A. Colourful, low-lying planting looked very well along this busy route into Naas. There were no obvious litter issues throughout this road, demonstrating an impressive level of cleanliness.

Canal Bank / Basin: Grade A. This is a very attractively presented waterside environment with plenty of 'olde' features highlighted by virtue of the fact they were brightly painted. One of the wall mural type features was hanging off the wall. Colourful planting lay beneath the 'Naas Community Garden' community notice. The overall impression with regards to litter was excellent. Clearly this is a very much cared for and respected environment.

Derelict Mansion, beside Canal Basin: Grade A. While this site has been abandoned for years, there were signs of hope in 2023 – illustrative image for Age Friendly Apartments, Market House, Canal Basin. While it looks like not much has changed since then, clearly a careful eye is kept on it as there was no litter directly associated with it.

Fairgreen / Rathaskar: Grade A. The overall impression at this large expanse of green space was very good – well presented and maintained with no visible litter issues throughout.

Friary Road Car Park: Grade A. This large car parking facility got the top litter grade, but only just. The main car park surface area was good with regards to litter, with a virtual absence around the perimeter.