

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

**Portlaoise: Clean to European Norms. 19<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed.**

**A consistent performance by Portlaoise, let down by a couple of heavily littered sites. Top ranking sites included the approach routes, commercial area of Highfield / Maryborough, Bring Facility at Council Offices and Portlaoise Train Station (Exterior) – formerly somewhat littered but very much deserving of the top litter grade this time around. Carmody Way / Fair Green was subject to some isolated dumping and needs attention to prevent further deterioration. There was very little improvement at Mountain Ash Square / Common Land – it's still being subject to neglect and abuse.**

**Kilkenny Approach Road: Grade A.** A freshly presented route with paving, bicycle path, road surface etc. in good order, creating a positive first impression of Portlaoise. Hedges were trimmed and impression was of a well maintained environment.

**Carmody Way / Fair Green: Grade C.** The overall impression at this site wasn't just casually littered but dumped upon e.g. mixed bags of rubbish, abandoned child's toy, something that looked like the frame of a trampoline and other miscellaneous items. It would seem that these items didn't just build up overnight – where does responsibility for this site lie?

**Highfield / Maryborough Retail: Grade A.** A freshly presented retail environment with paving, bollards, litter bins and colourful tree planting. The whole area presented well and was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

**N80 Mountmellick Approach Road: Grade A.** There were no obvious litter issues along this route, some of which passes through residential housing. All appeared in good order.

**Shuttered / Metal Grilled House, Harpur's Lane: Grade A.** Clearly a careful eye is kept on this site as there was no litter directly associated with it, despite the very low fencing, making it an easy target.

**Main Street: Grade A.** Clearly a careful eye is kept on the various closed down / vacant premises as there was no litter directly associated with them. Paving, bollards, and planter boxes were lovely features. The overall impression was a positive one with regards to litter.

**Derelict Premises - 44 Main Street: Grade A.** Identifying signage indicates that the former business was 'founded in 1955'. While this premises presents poorly, it wasn't a littered one.

**Portlaoise Train Station – Exterior: Grade A.** In previous IBAL Surveys this site has, from time to time, been littered. Not so, this time around. Well done to the users and station staff.

**Portlaoise Train Station – Interior: Grade A.** There were minimal litter items at this small waiting room environment.

**Jessop Retail Square: Grade A.** This small, town centre shopping area was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

**Mountain Ash Square / Common Land: Grade C.** This site appears to be in two parts with one open to the public and the second area with a condemned building project. Both were littered, not just small items but larger items e.g. child's buggy and other miscellaneous items.

**Recycle Facility at Council Offices: Grade A.** A small 'on-street' facility which was very much deserving of the top litter grade. Is it because the facility is beside the council offices that the public are less likely to abuse it?