

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

**Sligo: Cleaner than European Norms. Joint 7<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed.**

**A very strong performance by Sligo with seven out of the ten survey sites getting the top litter grade - these included JF Kennedy / Rockwood River Walk, ATU - Atlantic Technological University (there were lovely natural / biodiversity features within), the approach roads and O'Connell Street – the latter was a particularly freshly presented and maintained main shopping street environment with all aspects in very good order. There were no heavily littered sites.**

**JF Kennedy / Rockwood River Walk: Grade A.** This stretch of riverwalk, in the heart of the town, was excellent with regards to litter. All aspects were in very good order e.g. litter bins, life-belts, information signage, planted areas etc. Well done to all concerned.

**The Mall Car Park: Grade B+.** Certainly, this street level car park was much improved compared to previous IBAL surveys. The main car park surface area was fine, it was random items around the perimeter which brought down the overall litter grade. Care needs to be taken that there isn't further build-up in these areas.

**Bring Facility, Connaughton Rd Car Park: Grade A.** All was in good order at this small 'Bring Facility' in a public car park. There were no items stuffed between / beneath / behind the recycle units, as so often happens at such facilities. Bin units and signage associated with the use of same were freshly presented.

**N4 approach - Dublin direction: Grade A.** A very freshly presented route, with fast moving traffic along dual carriageway, right up to the town centre. There were no visible litter issues throughout the survey area.

**R292 Strandhill Approach Road: Grade A.** This route passes through residential areas before becoming very narrow and windy closer to the town. There was a boarded up premises on the left hand side, slightly recessed from the road - there were no obvious litter issues directly associated with it. A colourful wall mural on the right hand side was bright and cheerful. All was in good order along this route.

**Sligo Retail Park: Grade B+.** A large expanse of retail expanse with a vast car park - the latter was spotless. Any minor litter items were scattered along the pedestrian pathway in front of the stores - mostly sweet wrappers, retail receipts and tissues. There were plenty of litter bins, a mix of regular and 'recycle' bins.

**ATU - Atlantic Technological University: Grade A.** Area 'managed for wildlife' just in the main gate on the right hand side, sets a lovely tone for this campus. Another lovely feature is the illustrated signage 'Trees of Irish Language' just by the river and the associated tree signage features throughout. Picnic tables, seating, litter bins etc. were in very good condition. The whole area was very well maintained. The campus was excellent with regards to litter.

**Enniskillen Approach Road / Manorhamilton Road: Grade B.** The overall impression travelling along the slightly rural route, just before the Manorhamilton Road stretch was somewhat littered - perhaps recent cutting has revealed / exposed litter which might otherwise have been obscured. Main litter items were food related e.g. sweet papers, fast-food wrappers, plastic bottles and coffee cups.

**O'Connell Street: Grade A.** This was an excellent shopping street, both in terms of overall presentation and litter - it was spotless. Tree planting / planter boxes / paving etc. looked very well. There was no litter associated with any of the vacant / closed down premises.

**Deposit Return Scheme, Aldi: Grade A.** All was in very good order at this covered, 'stand-alone' facility just before the store entrance. There was no litter in the immediate vicinity, along with a receptacle for any 'Reject Items Only'. Signage at the facility indicates that if assistance is needed, please ask a member of staff.