

An Taisce Report - IBAL Anti-Litter League, Survey 1, 2025

Carlow: 33rd out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered.

The dearth of top ranking sites has prevented Carlow from being placed higher in the rankings. Even if some of the moderately littered sites shifted upwards, it could impact the overall ranking. Carlow Town Park wasn't just very good with regards to litter, but it is a wonderful expanse of green space with plenty of amenities within. The Bottle Bank, Town Hall Car Park and Carlow Train Station were the most heavily littered, followed by Barrowtrack River Barrow Walk and Mr Price – the latter has rarely been anything but heavily littered.

Barrowtrack / River Barrow Walk: Grade C+. This was a very mixed site. Some parts were freshly presented, welcoming and clean, other parts heavily littered. There was a very definite litter presence (primarily food related) at the base of seating areas, seemingly casually discarded and clearly not foraged from bins as there were no bins in the immediate vicinity of the seating. Further along, the grass area harboured litter. Cigarette butts were very pronounced at the base of the seating. Dog fouling and graffiti were very much in evidence.

Bottle Bank, Town Hall Car Park: Grade C. While the bin units were freshly presented, the signage to the rear of this facility was completely covered in graffiti, along with lower levels on the actual bin units themselves. Miscellaneous Items, which were not recyclable, were left at this facility, along with a series of cardboard boxes and egg shells. The overall impression created was a very poor one.

Carlow Town Park: Grade A. This is a beautiful town park environment which has so many wonderful features within e.g. large expanse of grass / biodiversity / wildlife area, play equipment, youth art work etc. The overall presentation and maintenance of the park was excellent. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout a large expansive area.

Carlow Train Station: Grade C. On first impressions, all appeared in good order at this train station, until one sees the large and exposed skip, the contents of which appeared to be bags of rubbish, liable to be foraged. It presents very poorly. The shrubbery / planted areas are a lovely feature, but a more thorough approach to the cleaning of same is required – there was a definite litter presence within. Litter items were generally food related e.g. plastic bottles, sweet papers, mineral cans and fast-food wrappers. There were heavy levels of cigarette butts within the car park. Pictorial signage asks the public: *'Do Not Reach Into Bins!'*

Kilkenny Road: Grade B+. The overall impression along this route was a positive one with road surface / markings / signage in good order and some lovely greenery / tree planting. The majority of the road presented well with regards to litter, however, there were too many food related items in the vicinity of college and the petrol station for the top litter grade.

Mr Price: Grade C+. This site has rarely been anything but littered and things were no different this time around. The industrial storage area presented very poorly and was not only visible but accessible to the public, with litter at the base of the large wheely bins. Another corner site (beside the electricity box) was also heavily littered.

Deposit Return Scheme, Aldi: Grade A. All was in very good order at this freshly presented 'stand-alone' facility. It had a 'Reject' compartment. There was a virtual absence of litter at this site.

Riverside / Avondale Drive: Grade A. The large expanse of grass at this residential area was spotless. The overall impression was of a clean and well maintained environment. People sitting outside in their gardens give the impression of a strong community.

Town Hall Car Park: Grade B+. The overall impression created at this car park was of a well presented and maintained environment with car park surface / markings in good order and beautifully maintained flower beds. Food related litter (sweet papers and fast-food wrappers) and cigarette butts, primarily around the perimeter took away from the top litter grade.

Tullow Street: Grade B+. The cobblestones / seating / colourful flower boxes presented very well along Tullow Street, creating a very positive impression overall. Care needs to be taken at the recessed site, somewhere derelict in appearance, which harboured some litter.