

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

Clonmel: 22nd out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

A solid result for Clonmel with five top ranking sites, its ranking let down by one heavily littered site at R665 Dungarvan Approach Road. There were a few which just missed the top litter grade and with a little extra care and attention, this could easily be achieved e.g. Mulcahy Park, Glass / Bottle Bank at Mary's Street and New Quay. John Paul Place Parking and O'Connell Street / Gladstone Street were very much deserving of the top litter grade.

John Paul Place Parking: Grade A. A freshly presented and well maintained car park with large and colourful planters and grass areas. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Ard na Greine: Grade A. This residential area was very much deserving of the top litter grade. One of the poles had large piece of ripped blue plastic wrapping, it's purpose not seemingly obvious. Pavement space was tight, with many cars parked half on the road / half on the pavement.

R665 Dungarvan Approach Road: Grade C. The stretch of road between Applegreen into Clonmel had a very definite litter presence, most obvious items were coffee cups, fast-food wrappers and sweet papers, with lower levels of other food related items, plastic ties on poles, promotional flyers and alcohol cans. The base of the shrubbery from Pollards Sawmills was significantly littered and any 'anti-litter' notices appear to be ignored / flouted.

Glass / Bottle Bank, Mary's Street: Grade B. While the bin units were freshly presented the main signage associated with the use of same was completely covered over / illegible – this presents poorly. Main litter items were 'loose' litter, casually discarded e.g. plastic bottles, plastic bags and sweet wrappers. With a little extra effort, this could easily be a top-ranking site.

Mulcahy Park: Grade B+. A lovely town park environment, set by the River Suir, just missed the top litter grade. The majority of the large area presented with colourful 'River Suir' birdlife signage, seating, Richard Mulcahy Sensory Playground, picnic tables etc. all in very good order. Dog fouling, cigarette butts and some food related items were present, along with broken wildlife information board and Emergency Numbers attached in a temporary fashion e.g. cable ties. Not much is required for the top litter grade.

N24 Cahir Approach Road: Grade B+. A welcoming route into Clonmel, with wide footpath looked very well. The majority of this route was good with regards to litter, but it was impossible to ignore the loose food related items along the side of the road.

New Quay: Grade B. This riverside environment doubles up as parking with much of the litter found on the buildings side / parking side of the stretch surveyed. The area was freshly presented with signage, rainbow coloured wooden seating, visitor information etc. all in very good order. A lovely feature were disused boats used as planter boxes – a great idea. Graffiti was present on one of the utility boxes.

O'Connell Street / Gladstone Street: Grade A. All was in very good order at this main shopping thoroughfare. The large and colourful planter boxes were used to good effect and the area was well served by litter bins. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the closed down / vacant outlets as there was no visible litter issue associated with same. Somewhat unusually for a shopping environment, dog fouling was present – perhaps the erection of dog fouling notices might help?

Deposit Return Scheme, Lidl: Grade A. There was a complete absence of litter at this site and the provision of the 'excess liquid' feature is a good one – not all Deposit Return Schemes provide these and it does appear to make a difference to the overall presentation of same.

Showgrounds Shopping Centre: Grade A. An exceptionally freshly presented and clean shopping environment with some lovely low planted in wood chippings – this area looked very well. There was a complete absence of litter throughout this site.