

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

**Fermoy: 32<sup>nd</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered.**

There were several sites within Fermoy which just missed the top litter grade, and this could easily be achieved with a little extra care and attention. Examples of these included Barnane Riverwalk, McCurtain Street / Patrick Street and the residential area of Rathcarrig estate. Fermoy Town Park maintained the top litter grade of so many previous IBAL surveys. Pike Road approach was let down by the stretch between Inver Petrol Station and Rathcarrig, where there was a heavy litter presence, both within and on the roadside of a derelict green and half-built housing estate. The Car Park at Lidl has lovely shrubbery around the perimeter – unfortunately it harboured significant litter.

**Barnane Riverwalk: Grade B+.** A beautiful riverwalk which was recently reconstructed for floodwater alleviation. The presentation was excellent, with large, colourful Barnane Wildlife Trail poster and bins, seating, and signage all in very good order. There were too many litter items for the top litter grade, a mix of sweet papers, alcohol bottles, dog fouling and cigarette butts – primarily close to the seating areas. Broken glass is hazardous.

**Dublin Road: Grade A.** This route creates an excellent first impression of Fermoy, a clean and welcoming one. The recent foot / bicycle paths presented very well. Road signage could benefit from cleaning but were otherwise in good condition.

**Fermoy Town Park: Grade A.** Fermoy Town Park is a fantastic amenity with a range of facilities within e.g. playground, seating, fitness, swimming pool etc. It was wonderfully presented and maintained with all aspects in very good condition. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout a large expanse of green space. Signage relating to Fermoy Outdoor Fitness Zone was worn away, practically illegible. Signage on one of the litter bins reminds users of the park that the bins are *for patrons using the park, not for household waste, smile you are on camera*.

**Library Car Park: Grade A.** There was a complete absence of litter throughout this heavily used town centre car park – a credit to all concerned, both the users and those responsible for the maintenance of same. Tree planting within the car park is a lovely feature.

**Lidl Car Park: Grade C+.** Car park surface, markings and signage were freshly presented, with just minor litter items e.g. cigarette butts. What brought down the litter grade was the very obvious and heavy litter presence around the grass perimeter, particularly at the base of the shrubbery / trees. While it is lovely to have this planted area, it would appear it requires a more thorough approach to cleaning.

**McCurtain Street / Patrick Street: Grade B+.** This long shopping street just missed the top litter grade. It was freshly presented, with lovely paving along some stretches, colourful planter boxes, tree planting and dedicated 'gum and butt facility' attached to street poles. Overflowing industrial / wheely bins presented poorly and created litter. Heavy hitting dog fouling signage reminds dog owners to 'Be Responsible' and stop 'Mess, Smell, Disease'.

**Pike Road Approach: Grade C.** The stretch of road between Inver Petrol Station and Rathcarrig Estate has a half built housing estate on one side and a derelict green site on the other. While there were heavy levels of a wide variety of litter within these sites, (impacting the visual impact of this route), there were items directly outside on the roadside – overall impression was a poor one. Dog fouling was very pronounced.

**Rathcarrig Estate: Grade B.** While this residential development was freshly presented and in good order it was let down by food related litter, e.g. fast-food wrappers and sweet papers in the play areas / on the grass. Being so close to the derelict sites on Pike Road, hopefully this hasn't impacted Rathcarrig Estate. With a little extra care and attention, this could easily be a top-ranking site.

**Bring Facility, Library Car Park: Grade B.** The recycle bin units and the signage associated with the use of same were freshly presented. The bin units didn't appear to be full / overflowing and yet there were alcohol bottles 'neatly' left at the base of the units. A couple of bags had been left on the ground / at the last bin on the left hand side, with this area requiring a good sweeping in order to discourage any further casual disposal.

**Deposit Return Scheme, Lidl: Grade B.** There didn't appear to be any facility for 'reject' items / bin in the immediate vicinity of this Deposit Return Scheme, resulting in a few plastic bottles and mineral cans left on top and a small collection in a box on the ground.