

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

Letterkenny: 13th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

A very strong performance by Letterkenny, with five top-ranking sites, four sites just shy of top ranking and just one seriously littered. Ballyboe - Glencar Park is a lovely park environment which was excellent with regards to litter. Other top ranking sites included Upper Main Street, Pinehill Business Park and Deposit Return Scheme at Letterkenny Retail Park. By far the most heavily littered site surveyed was the Recycle Facility at Aura Leisure – this presented very poorly and will likely deteriorate further, if not addressed.

N56 Approach: Grade B+. (from Dry Arch Roundabout in to Polestar Roundabout). Anybody travelling along this route will be greeted by a very striking elevated sculpture at the Dry Arch Roundabout. The route generally presents well and just missed the top litter grade – items were mostly food related, with some dog fouling and cigarette butts.

Deposit Return Scheme, Letterkenny Retail Park: Grade A. There were two such facilities at this retail park, one at Marks & Spencer and the other at Dunnes Store. Both were in very good condition, and the immediate environs was spotless.

Public Car Park at Letterkenny Retail Park: Grade B+. The car park presented well with car park surface / markings / signage in good order. Some of the planted areas were somewhat 'tired' looking but not majorly littered. There were too many cigarette butts and lower levels of sweet wrappers for the top litter grade.

R250 Approach: Grade B+. (from roundabout at O'Donnell Park Stadium in to roundabout at end of Lower Main Street) The overall impression along this route was quite a good one but it was let down somewhat by a scattering of food related items e.g. coffee cups, plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers and sweet papers.

Skate Park and Playground, Aura Leisure Centre: Grade B+. The area in and around the playground was very good with regards to litter. While graffiti was very much a feature at the skate park (as it would seem is the custom at such sites), some of the equipment appeared grubby. Sweet wrappers were also present.

Recycle Facility at Aura Leisure Centre: Grade C. This was by far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Letterkenny. The bin units themselves were very freshly presented with associated signage in good condition. The base of the shrubbery right beside the recycle units was heavily littered, much of it seemingly 'long-lie', indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time. If not addressed, this may well build-up further.

Glencar Approach Road: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along this approach road with residential properties well-tended. The overall impression was a welcoming one.

Ballyboe - Glencar Park: Grade A. This large expanse of parkland, with mature planting is a lovely facility with paved walks, seating and a stream running through. Almost all aspects were in good condition, but some of the dog fouling signage / dog fouling waste bins were old / dirty / rusty. The whole area was excellent with regards to litter.

Pinehill Business Park: Grade A. A very functional business park environment with a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Upper Main Street: Grade A. Colourful spring bulbs looked very well along this busy town centre shopping street. Street bins, signage, seating, railings, planted areas etc. were in very good condition. Upper Main Street was very much deserving of the top litter grade.