

Mullingar: 11th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

Another strong result for Mullingar which had several top ranking sites deserving of special mention. The main shopping thoroughfare of Pearse Street / Oliver Plunkett Street was excellent with regards to litter, with lovely planter boxes and paving. Mullingar Town Park was exceptionally freshly presented and maintained and spotless throughout. Town Centre Car Park – Blackhall: was adorned by a colourful mural of people / items of historic note. By far the most heavily littered site surveyed was the Canal Pathway, primarily due to alcohol related litter in the water and a bag of rubbish, the contents of which were strewn on the ground.

Ballymahon Approach Road: Grade A. A freshly presented approach road with lush vegetation and colourful planting. Road surface / markings / signage were in good condition. There were no visible litter issues throughout this route, all creating a very positive first impression of Mullingar.

Bring Facility, Harbour Place Shopping Centre: Grade A. The clothing / glass / can / tin recycle bin units and signage associated with the use of same were in very good condition. There was minimal litter in the immediate environs, small amount of broken glass on the ground and a cardboard box.

Lidl, R392: Grade B+. (across the road from the canal) Signage at the vehicular access indicates that *'This store is powered by Solar'*. Lovely planting surrounding much of the perimeter of the car park / store grounds – looked very well. There were just too many small pieces of litter close to the store and within the car park for the top litter grade.

Canal Walk: Grade C+. (at Grange South Recreation Hub). This canal environment was looking glorious on a cloudless, sunny May morning. The pathways were generally clear of litter, albeit with some dog fouling. However, it was impossible to ignore the alcohol related litter (cans and bottles) within the water and a bag of domestic rubbish which had been very deliberately placed along the path – the contents of which were strewn about and likely to cause more litter.

Mullingar Business Park – Zone B: Grade B. The car park with the colourful 'Old Rail Trail' map / noticeboard harboured an accumulation of litter in the corner shrubbery area – it looked like it lacked a thorough clean in quite some time. The main thoroughfare was mildly littered – overall impression was of a moderately littered site.

Dublin Road / Marlinstown: Grade A. All was in good order along this busy approach route into Mullingar. Signage / road surface / planted areas presented well. A fresh and welcoming route.

Town Centre Car Park – Blackhall: Grade A. A lovely feature of this town centre car park was the extensive colourful mural indicating items / people of historical note. The car park was very good with regards to litter. The only items were cigarette butts, as is often the case in car parks.

Pearse Street / Oliver Plunkett Street: Grade A. Paving and planting along these adjoining streets looked very well. Some of the large planter boxes had wooden seating attached. Clearly a very careful eye is kept on the closed down / vacant units as there was no litter directly associated with them. This long stretch of shopping street was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

Mullingar Town Park: Grade A. This Green Flag Park is an absolute gem, right in the heart of Mullingar. All aspects were in exceptionally good condition e.g. seating, signage, play equipment / PE Equipment, litter bins etc. A water fountain was located near one of the play areas. A lovely feature was the sculpture from an Ash tree which had to be felled – a notice explains why it was felled and the theme of the characters featured in the sculpture. There was a complete absence of litter throughout this park – a fantastic feat, considering the very heavy usage on an exceptionally warm and sunny day.

Deposit Return Scheme – Dunnes Stores: Grade B+. Items on the ground at the base of the units (one of which was 'out of order') were not related to the deposit return scheme – plastic bags / pieces of paper. The 'Rejected Re-turn Plastic Bottles and Cans Only' bin was stuffed with non Returnable items.