

Portlaoise: 20th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

A very solid performance by Portlaoise with six out of the ten sites getting the top litter grade – these included the Main Street, Glass / Bottle Bank at Council Buildings and Pairc An Phobail – all were well presented and excellent with regards to litter. By far the most heavily littered sites were the residential area of Carmody Way and Harpur's Lane & Environs – both need attention to prevent further deterioration.

R445 Mountrath Approach Road: Grade A. This route creates a very welcoming impression of Portlaoise with neatly cut grass verges and bicycle / pathways freshly presented. Overall, there was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Carmody Way: Grade C+. This residential area was quite mixed in terms of overall presentation. Some parts were in good order; other parts were heavily littered / dumped upon – this was particularly obvious in some of the parking areas. This general area has been highlighted by local residents who have brought to our attention an on-going issue which has had local media coverage. [Portlaoise residents plead with Laois council to tackle rats - Laois Live](#)

Glass / Bottle Bank at Council Buildings: Grade A. An exceptionally freshly presented and maintained 'Bring Facility' with a complete absence of litter. Bin units were in very good order and the layout of the units was such that there were no opportunity to 'stuff' items to the side / rear as is sometimes the case at similar facilities.

Harpur's Lane and Environs: Grade C+. While the planter boxes and well maintained grassy areas presented well, there were loose litter items at the parking close to the youth centre and shops. However, the derelict site presented very poorly, fencing was broken and heavy levels of a wide variety of food related items were visible. Unless this site is addressed, it will likely deteriorate further. Cigarette butts and broken alcohol bottles were also present.

Main Street: Grade A. Streetscape looked very well with good paving, lovely planter boxes, wooden seating and fresh looking traffic light box type art. Colourful signage on the Big Belly Street Bins indicates 'A Town in a Garden', with illustrations of greenery, the outdoors and cyclist. The overall impression with regards to litter was a virtual absence of same. The installation of cigarette butt unit by the Court House might help – certainly not unusual to find cigarette butts outside court buildings.

Mountain View square – common land: Grade B. A nice nod to biodiversity was the mowing around the perimeter of the large expanse of grass space – this generally indicates that the area isn't being ignored in terms of maintenance, while at the same time, encouraging biodiversity. Mountain View Square was generally clear of litter but there were some food related items on the road leading to the primary school and Harpur's Lane.

Pairc an Phobail: Grade A. It's fitting that this Green Flag for Parks got the top litter grade – well done to all concerned. One of the many signs at the entrance was the colourful anti-smoking 'Clean Air Around Us'. One of the lovely features was the information about the wildlife / trees within the park.

Portlaoise Train Station: Grade B. The majority of this station presented well, but the car park to the rear harboured some food related litter, cigarette butts and bus / train tickets. The verge area needs attention, to prevent further build up. The 'Maintained for Wildlife' area appeared more neglected than maintained for same.

Deposit Return Scheme, Tesco: Grade A. There was a complete absence of litter at this 'In-store' facility. Area also included 'hard / soft plastic' unit.

Tesco Car Park: Grade A. The overall presentation of this car park was excellent with a virtual absence of litter throughout. Cigarette butts did feature, not unusual within a car park environment.