

**Westport: 14<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.**

It's a number of years since Westport was last included in the IBAL survey but the high rankings in previous years have been sustained with six out of the ten sites getting the top litter grade. There were no heavily littered sites. The three approach routes presented very well, creating a positive first impression of Westport. Other top-ranking sites included Abbvie Industrial Estate (the visible area was meticulously presented and maintained), Deposit Return Scheme at Lidl and the lovely expanse of green space at 'The Bog Field' – where all was in very good order.

**Abbvie Industrial Estate: Grade A.** For the purpose of the survey, due to the security barriers, only the entrance area and area immediately surrounding it were included in the survey. The overall presentation of visible areas was excellent with some lovely, planted areas and meticulously maintained grounds. There was a complete absence of litter in the area surveyed.

**N59 Newport Approach Road: Grade A.** All was in good order along this approach route with a virtual absence of litter throughout - creating a positive first impression of Westport. Shrubbery area along one stretch was poorly maintained but it wasn't harbouring any litter, as can so often happen.

**Greenway: Grade B.** (from junction at Pinewoods to New Rd at Lidl). This stretch of the Greenway is set in lovely woodlands / mature planting, all of which looked very well. As well as loose food related items, there were some road works signs / street cones / and large pieces of plastic within the planted areas – this does create a poor impression and will hopefully be removed before 'attracting' any further casual discarding.

**Deposit Return Scheme, Lid, New Road: Grade A.** Signage at the facility offers customers the opportunity to 'Please Empty any Excess Liquids'. There was a virtual absence of litter in the immediate environs of this Deposit Return Scheme.

**The Octagon: Grade B.** The striking Octagon is attractively adorned with plenty of planting and outdoor seating. There were significant levels of cigarette butts near the seating, with lower levels of sweet wrapper in the surrounding area. With a little extra care and attention, this could easily be a top ranking site.

**Bridge Street: Grade B.** The individual shop-fronts along Bridge Street presented very well. As with The Octagon, the main litter issues were cigarette butts, particularly pronounced outside some pubs and at the outdoor seating areas, but also along the entirety of the street. Lower levels of sweet wrappers prevailed.

**Recycle Facility / Bottle Bank adjacent to the Bog Field Car Park: Grade B.** While it is clear that the facility is being used (i.e. one of the clothing units was full / almost overflowing), greater maintenance of same is required. Significant amounts of broken green glass on the ground was dangerous and plastic bags and other items had been 'stuffed' between the recycle units.

**Playground / Park at 'The Bog Field' Park: Grade A.** This lovely expanse of green space was very much in a natural setting with a great array of play equipment – all of which were in very good condition. The whole area presented very well and was excellent with regards to litter.

**R330 Partry Road: Grade A.** A very well presented and maintained route into Westport with individual properties well maintained and there was no litter directly associated with the large boarded up premises. Planting / road and bicycle paths were in very good order.

**R309 Castlebar Approach Road: Grade A.** This busy approach route was very much deserving of the top litter grade. Some low-lying planting on the grass area was a lovely addition and added to the great first impression created of Westport.