

Monaghan: 6th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms

Monaghan retains its consistency of recent years, with seven out of the ten sites surveyed getting the top litter grade and, most notably, no heavily littered sites. The Diamond Centre had frequently been a heavily littered one over many previous IBAL surveys – not so, this time around it was Grade A status. Monaghan Bus Station, Market House Museum and a couple of the approach roads were also very much deserving of the top litter grade.

M54 Approach Road: Grade A. (from speed signs in to junction with R186 / Tydavnet Road). The entire length of this route was clean and litter free, a very welcoming first impression of Monaghan town. This standard was maintained for well over half of the sites surveyed. Road surface / markings / signage were in very good condition and there was a bank of dandelions along the adjoining grass.

Market House Museum: Grade A. The built environment was in very good order with attractive visitor information notices / signage. Area was enhanced with an abundance of colourful flower boxes. Picnic table, bicycle parking, bollards etc. were freshly presented. Overall, this site was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

Monaghan Bus Eireann Bus Station: Grade A. A lovely feature at this station was the planting, adding some welcome greenery. Litter bins were in very good condition, and it was great to see the opportunity to 'separate waste recycle' right beside the regular bins. The interior of the Bus Station was very freshly presented. Apart from some cigarette butts, there was a complete absence of litter throughout.

The Diamond Centre: Grade A. What a transformation! This site had regularly, over many years, been a heavily littered one. This time around there was a virtual absence. Hopefully this can be maintained after getting to Grade A status.

Apartment Development, rear of Diamond Centre: Grade A. An exceptionally freshly presented and maintained residential development – all aspects were in very good order and there was a complete absence of litter throughout.

Town Park / Peter's Lake: Grade B+. A lovely 'open' green space with a lake at its centre. All aspects were in very good condition e.g., seating, visitor information notices, picnic tables, litter bins (with dedicated pizza box only bin) litter awareness notices and hard-hitting Dog Fouling notices. Great to see the signage indicating that the area is a 'Pesticide-Free Zone'. This site just missed the top litter grade – there were too many food related items at the water's edge.

Town Centre Car Park: Grade A. This site was very much deserving of the top litter grade – it was clean and litter free throughout. Clear and colourful 'Monaghan Town Map' looked very well in this car park.

N54 Approach: Grade A. (from Corlat Roundabout to traffic lights with church). Colourful planting / greenery welcomes any visitors to Monaghan at Corlat Roundabout. The overall impression created along the route was a very positive one with regard to presentation of commercial and residential properties and in terms of litter and general maintenance. Road / paving surface were very fresh in appearance.

N54 Approach: Grade B. (from Coolshannagh Roundabout to traffic lights at McCleary's / Lidl) Coolshannagh Roundabout was resplendent with colourful planting. The overall impression created along this stretch of road was a moderately littered one – main litter items were food related e.g., sweet papers, fast-food wrappers, plastic bags and some alcohol cans.

Recycle Facility: Grade B+. The recycle bin units and signage associated with the use of the facility were freshly presented and in good order. The provision of a regular litter bin beside the units appears to be doing a reasonably good job as this facility just missed the top litter grade.