

**Monaghan: 21<sup>st</sup> out of 40 Towns / Cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.**

**Monaghan continues to occupy a mid-ranking 'clean' position in the League. The approach roads from Armagh and Carrickmacross were both excellent sites in terms of presentation and litter. Within the town, both the Court House Environs and The Diamond were excellently presented and maintained. This was in sharp contrast to the adjoining 'Diamond Centre' which was heavily littered and has been on many previous surveys. The Recycle Facility at Car Park on Castle Road was also in a poor state with piles of items discarded behind, between and beneath the Recycle Units.**

**Dublin Street: Grade A.** The paving created a fresh impression along the 'olde' style shopping street. Some premises were in better condition than others, with 'vacant' sites present. Cigarette wrappers were sitting on top of a cigarette butt unit. Overall, there was a virtual absence of litter but care needs to be taken with cigarette butts and chewing gum.

**N12 Approach from Armagh: Grade A.** An excellent route with regard to overall presentation – road surface, markings and signage were in very good condition and there was no obvious litter throughout the area surveyed. There was attractive low planting at the roundabout.

**Monaghan Harps Social Club: Grade A.** The overall presentation and maintenance of this site was excellent. It was very fresh in appearance and there was a complete absence of litter in the car park and grasslands. The area is well served by litter bins.

**N2 Approach from Carrickmacross: Grade A.** A very clean and tidy impression was created along this route into Monaghan. Road surface, markings and signage were in excellent condition. The roundabout presented well and the grass verges had been freshly cut.

**Long Stay Car Park on Macartan Road: Grade A.** There was a virtual absence of litter at this 'Monaghan Town Council Car Park'. The car park surface was somewhat uneven and overall presentation was fine.

**The 'Diamond Centre': Grade C.** This small town centre shopping area was very heavily littered with a mix of food and alcohol related litter. It was pronounced throughout. An overflowing 'industrial blue' bin in public view, certainly didn't help the overall appearance. The 'Monaghan Tidy Towns' signs are falling on deaf ears. This site has regularly been a heavily littered one in previous IBAL litter surveys.

**Recycle Bank at Car Park on 'Castle Road': Grade C.** Piles of items had been stuffed behind, between and beneath the recycle units. Some of the 'CCTV in Use' signage was broken (and clearly not having the desired effect).

**Monaghan Court House / Church: Grade A.** The area immediately surrounding these fine buildings has been attractively laid out with paving, seating, ornamental trees, 'olde' style street lamps, etc. It was excellent with regard to litter.

**The Diamond: Grade A.** The paving at this town centre environment creates a very fresh appearance and this has been further enhanced by ornamental trees, seating, planted areas etc. Care needs to be taken to ensure that cigarette butts don't become an issue at the iron grills at the base of the trees.

**Monaghan River Walk: Grade B+.** The pedestrian pathway was generally fine with regard to litter but the area was let down by litter in the stagnant water – some of it alcohol related. There were plenty of bins along the area surveyed.