

Longford: 34th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered.

It is disappointing to see Longford (a former winner of IBAL Anti-Litter League) score so poorly in this round. The low ranking sites didn't become heavily littered overnight. By far the worst site was a litter blackspot at Breaden's Lane which has been used as a dumping ground with a shocking level of items discarded. The Wasteground at Ardum Court was not quite as bad in terms of dumping but was very heavily littered and the Recycle Facility at Dunnes Stores was also very poor. The residential area of Midara Gardens presented well, as did Longford Co Co Pay and Display Car Park.

Ballymahon Street and Main Street: Grade B. A moderately littered site with some vacant properties creating a poor impression. Chewing gum was very pronounced with lower levels of sweet papers, fast-food wrappers, cigarette butts and other miscellaneous items.

Midara Gardens: Grade A. Very good impression was created at this residential area. It was tidy and litter free throughout.

Longford County Council Pay and Display Car Park on Saint Mel's Road: Grade A. A freshly presented and maintained car park with signage, markings, footpath etc. in good order. There was a virtual absence of litter in the area surveyed.

Battery Road – approach: Grade A. An very good first impression of Longford town was created along this road. Mature planting, clean pavements and road surface / markings were in good order. It was excellent with regard to litter.

Breaden's Lane: Grade D. Longford Town Council signage at beginning of laneway reads 'Breaden's Lane – Environmental Project, official opened by Major Brendan Gilmore, Friday 7th May 2010. Part of Breaden's Lane in 2019 has been used as a dumping ground. It was in a shocking state – street cones, shopping trolleys, rolls of carpet, bags and bags of black sacks of rubbish, cabinets, large plastic containers, the list is endless.

Wasteground at Ardum Court: Grade C. 'Longford Tidy Towns Signage reads: *Why Are you Littering: I'm Stupid; I don't care about my town' Mammy still cleans up after me; all of the Above*'. Unfortunately the signage is not having the desired effect at this site. It has clearly suffered from long-term neglect and abuse. It wasn't just littered but weeds / overgrowth were several feet high. Where does responsibility for this site lie?

Edgeworthstown Road Approach: Grade A. The overall impression created along this route was generally a positive one with road surface, markings and signage in very good order. Care needs to be taken around the roadworks / behind the street cones to ensure that litter doesn't build up, minor items in evidence. Also occasional other litter items.

Dunnes Stores Shopping Centre: Grade B+. (see below for separate Recycle Facility site) This freshly presented environment just missed getting the top litter grade – loose litter items in the car park and at surrounding perimeter fencing area. With a little extra effort on behalf of users this could easily be a top ranking site.

Recycle Centre at Dunnes Stores on Dublin Road: Grade C. A poor site which wasn't just casually littered. As well as items stuck between and beneath the recycle units there were some dumped bags and a neat row of glass bottles.

N63 Longford to Roscommon Connecting Road: Grade A. Well-tended grass verges throughout this route. Overall, it was deserving of the top litter grade.