

Portlaoise: 7th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

With eight out of the ten sites getting the top litter grade in Portlaoise, the town has maintained the progress made in recent years. The Main Street, Hinds Square and Fitzmaurice Place (the amphitheatre has been removed and the area reconfigured) all presented well and were very good with regard to litter. It was also noted that Pepper Lane was a much improved site on previous surveys. By far the most heavily littered site in Portlaoise was the Derelict Building opposite Kelly's Steakhouse / Midland Bank Hotel where heavy levels of a wide variety of litter items had accumulated behind the railings.

R445 Approach Road (from direction of M7): Grade A. Road surface / markings / signage were in very good order along this route. The adjoining grass areas were well maintained. It presented a clean and tidy impression with a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Pepper Lane: Grade A. This very narrow laneway is in better shape than previous IBAL litter surveys. Several of the outlets along the laneway appeared to be closed down. Overall, it was deserving of the top litter grade but clearly it is an area which needs constant attention.

Fitzmaurice Place: Grade A. (former amphitheatre) The amphitheatre space has been completely re-configured, resulting in an open space with a sculpture, low planting and ornamental trees. It was excellent with regard to litter.

Portlaoise Train Station – Interior: Grade A. A freshly presented environment with signage, seating, bins and facilities in very good order - there was a virtual absence of litter.

Portlaoise Train Station – Exterior: Grade B. There was no denying the litter scattered about the exterior of the station – the majority of it was food related. Some of it was trapped beneath parked bicycles, as well as the open space by the entrance.

Derelict building - opposite Kelly's Steakhouse/ Midland Bank Hotel: Grade C. This boarded up property has clearly suffered long-term abuse and neglect. Not only does it present poorly but heavy levels of a wide variety of litter items have accumulated behind the railings.

Main Street: Grade A. The overall presentation of the Main Street was a good one with 'olde' style streetlamps, bollards, paving, seating etc. in good order. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Hinds Square: Grade A. Much of this small retail environment presented well – it was largely litter free. Attractive paving and colourful planting were welcome features.

Midlands Park: Grade A. Fairly recently reconfigured streetscape has resulted in an attractively presented environment – there were no visible litter issues.

M7 connecting Road to Newbridge: Grade A. An excellent stretch of road in terms of presentation and litter.