

An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 1, 2021

Leixlip: 2nd out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

Leixlip has made spectacular return to the IBAL League, with only one littered site. With so many top-ranking sites, there are a few which deserve special mention. Leixlip Spa & Waterfall – Royal Canal was beautifully laid out, with a complete absence of litter along the pathway and associated planting. The River Bank had attractive features, including lovely, patterned paving and flower planting in a former canoe. Clearly a careful eye is kept on any closed down / vacant premises as there was no litter directly associated with them along The Mall or Captain's Hill. A feature that was noted at a few different locations were the great visitor / historical information notices e.g., Leixlip Spa & Waterfall, Captain's Hill and Leixlip Train Station.

Leixlip Spa & Waterfall - Royal Canal: Grade A. There was excellent visitor information signage for this wonderful water / waterside feature. Pedestrian paving was in good order and there was some nice planting beside the path. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the pathway and there were no visible litter items in the water.

Leixlip Train Station: Grade A. The train station was very well presented with car park surface, markings, signage in good order, as was the platform environment. Historical information relating to 'Louisa Train Station & Railway' with interesting illustrations and photographs looked very well. There were no litter issues throughout the station.

Lucan Approach Road: Grade A. The green fencing along this route was in very good condition and the overall impression created was a good one. Road surface, markings and signage were in excellent order.

River Bank: Grade A. A lovely feature was the colourful planting in the former canoe – a simple concept, but very effective. Paving, seating, hanging baskets, grasslands, historical visitor information etc. all presented very well. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

The Mall: Grade A. This main shopping street has been beautifully presented with features very much in keeping with the many old buildings e.g., paving, street lamps, bollards etc. The overall impression was of a very clean and tidy environment. (See separate reference to closed down / boarded up properties along The Mall)

Derelict buildings, The Mall: Grade A. There were five adjoining buildings, one of which was boarded up and painted, taking away the bare look. Bord Failte signage indicated that Major William Francis Roantree, Fenian Leader was born at this site. The other properties presented quite poorly but clearly a careful eye is kept on all these properties as there was no litter directly associated with them. Based on the 2020 planning application notices, perhaps there is room for some optimism about their future state.

Captain's Hill: Grade A. Very good visitor information notice along Captain's Hill. The street presented well with attractive paving, street bollards & bins, picnic tables, planter boxes etc. There were some closed down / vacant premises, but they didn't impact negatively on the litter situation.

R148 Confey Approach Road: Grade A. A clean and tidy approach road, no litter issues noted. Road surface, paving and verges were in good order.

Bring Centre, Lidl Car Park: Grade B. The bin units presented well, flush against a wall, preventing items being stuffed behind them. Instead, items had been discarded beside them, mostly clothing, with bottle tops on the ground. Large signage (appeared very new) was in very good condition, indicating CCTV may be used, complete with QR code to report illegal dumping / or if they banks are full. At the bottom of the signage is another QR code, reminding people to Mind your Mental Health by drinking less.

R148 Celbridge Approach Road: Grade A. A very good first impression was created along this route.