

Longford: 10th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

A welcome bounce back for Longford after a period in the doldrums. Over half of the sites surveyed received the top litter grade and there were no seriously littered sites. All approach roads were top-ranking, as was New Street and the Bring Facility by Peplo / Dealz.

R393 Mullingar Approach Road: Grade A. An excellent first impression of Longford with newly laid asphalt, clipped hedges, lawns mown and an absence of litter throughout. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good condition.

R194 Ballinasloe Approach Road: Grade A. Apart from one small incident, this was a very good site with regard to litter. Attractive paving looked well, and individual properties were well presented. Maintenance along this road was good.

New Street: Grade A. This town centre street presented well with paving, street bins, bollards, hanging baskets in good order. Some of the older terraced buildings were particularly well presented. The outdoor dining didn't impact in any negative way on the litter situation.

Bring Facility by Peplo / Dealz: Grade A. A freshly presented on-street facility with individual bin units in very good condition. Due to the layout of the units, tight against a wall, there was little opportunity for the stuffing of items to the rear, as can so easily happen. Apart from a small amount of broken glass, it was a clean and tidy site.

Vacant premises, Earl Street: Grade A. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the various closed down / vacant premises along Earl Street as there was no litter directly associated with them.

Longford Train / Bus Station – Exterior: Grade B+. With a little extra care and attention this could easily be a top-ranking site. The casualness of a few has taken away from an otherwise well presented environment. A flower pot was being used as a bin. Cigarette butts were most obvious with lower levels of food related items, particularly along the kerb and by the bin.

Longford Train / Bus Station – Interior / platform: Grade B. The station interior was spotless but the accumulation of cigarette butts and other food related items on the platform brought down the litter grade. Great to see that passengers are being provided with the opportunity to 'separate' waste with the provision of 'Recyclables Only' bin. Perhaps the installation of butt unit collects at the seating area would help address the cigarette butt issue?

Main Street: Grade B+. Apart from food related items, the main litter issues were face-masks and cigarette butts - a pity that the statue was being used as an ashtray. The area in front of the hotel premises was very good with regard to litter.

Longford Centre – Shopping Quadrangle: Grade B+. The main surface area was generally fine with regard to litter but around the perimeter pathway and in parking bays and bicycle parking area, various items were found. Face masks and gloves, sweet papers and copious quantities of cigarette butts were present.

Approach road with Ballycormick Cemetery: Grade A. There was a complete absence of litter along this stretch of road. All aspects of this road e.g., paving, road surface and markings were in very good condition.