

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

**Monaghan: 20<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.**

**A creditable improvement for Monaghan, regaining its Clean status from 2019. The three approach roads to Monaghan all warranted the top litter grade, creating a positive first impression of the town. Other top-ranking sites included Church Square and Hill Street, both of which presented very well. The Diamond Centre has been highlighted in many previous IBAL surveys and there was no improvement this time around – it wasn't just casually littered but subject to dumping, despite the best efforts of Monaghan Tidy Towns' humorous anti-litter notices.**

**N54 Castleblayney Approach Road: Grade A.** A very good first impression of the town with road surface, markings, signage in good condition. Shrubbery was in good order.

**Bring Centre at Tesco: Grade B.** The level of litter / broken glass at this facility was such that it was verging on Grade C status. Items had been stuffed between and behind the units, with cardboard boxes simply abandoned on the ground.

**Church Square: Grade A.** This town centre environment presented very well with attractive 'olde' style street lamps, tree planting, street bins, bollards, seating etc. in very good condition. Colourful flower boxes and picnic tables looked well. The main 'greening' of this area was an artificial surface, almost like an astroturf pitch, an interesting choice in an otherwise historic environment.

**GAA / Athletics Grounds: Grade A.** A large expanse of green space and associated parking – all was in good order with regard to litter. The area appeared to be well maintained.

**R186 Tydarnet Approach: Grade A.** An excellent site in terms of litter and general presentation. Large expanse of grass area was in good order.

**R162 Ballybay Approach Road: Grade A.** There were no litter issues along this road. Area 'Managed for Wildlife' was suitably maintained and there was a very visual dog fouling notice.

**Hill Street: Grade A.** There was a virtual absence of litter along this town centre street. Many of the old buildings presented very well, some with colourful flower boxes to the front.

**The Diamond Centre: Grade D.** A persistently poor site, there was no improvement noted at The Diamond Centre. It wasn't just casually littered but clothing items had been discarded in the car park and there was dumping behind the wooden at the storage area beside the cinema – very close to the plentiful Monaghan Tidy Towns 'litter awareness' posters which are being flagrantly ignored. Piles and piles of cigarette butts had accumulated on the ground and broken glass was a health hazard.

**Miscellaneous Site at car servicing area on grass at Applegreen Petrol Station: Grade A.** hugely improved site compared to IBAL 2020 visit – this time around it was created a tidy impression with a virtual absence of litter throughout.

**Bring Centre in Long Stay Car Park: Grade B.** (Broad Road) A somewhat improved site compared to IBAL 2020 visit. Recycle bins were freshly presented and the area to the front was generally quite clean. The area to the rear of the bottle / can units brought down the litter grade.