Press release
Monday, 6 December 04

Cavan retains crown as Ireland's cleanest, as more towns come up shining

Cavan is once again Ireland's cleanest town, according to a litter survey by An Taisce on behalf of the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) alliance. At an awards ceremony in the Conrad Hotel in Dublin today, representatives from Cavan County Council were presented with a commemorative plaque by Minister Batt O'Keeffe and IBAL Chairman Dr Tom Cavanagh. Cavan thus retains the accolade won in 2003, based on litter measurings throughout the year. The survey also showed Ireland is getting cleaner and cleaner, with 11 towns receiving awards for achieving 'litter-free'status – the highest number since the League was started in 2002. In contrast, 4 towns were classed as 'litter blackspots', the worst of which was Swords.

In the most recent survey, Cavan achieved a record 97 points out of 100 (80 is considered 'clean top European norms'). An Taisce's report referred to the sites surveyed as "excellent, not only in terms of the lack of litter but also the way in which the general environment is maintained. It is this complete approach which sets Cavan apart from the other towns and cities surveyed."

Dr Tom Cavanagh added: "Cavan's status as the cleanest town in the country is undisputed. It stands as a model for all other towns in the country."

Minister Batt O'Keeffe noted that the top towns tend to score consistently well in the League, confirming his view that the League is an effective model for tackling litter pollution. "The League has shown" he said, " that where local authorities have effective litter management strategies in place, consistent long-term results will ensue."

The 30 cities and towns inspected averaged a cleanliness rating of 73 points in the latest survey, the highest average since measurings began and a 4% improvement on the final round in 2003. Litter levels have improved from 55 points since the League began in 2002 – a rise of 33%.

Final results of the 2004 Anti Litter League are as follows:

1	Cavan	Clean to European norms
2	Monaghan	Clean to European norms
3	Fermoy	Clean to European norms
4	Wexford	Clean to European norms
5	Carlow	Clean to European norms
6	Dun Laoghaire	Clean to European norms
7	Tralee	Clean to European norms
8	Athlone	Clean to European norms
9	Bray	Clean to European norms
10	Letterkenny	Clean to European norms
11	Waterford	Clean to European norms
12	Drogheda	Moderately littered
13	Roscommon	Moderately littered
14	Longford	Moderately littered

15	Clonmel	Moderately littered
16	Kilkenny	Moderately littered
17	Castlebar	Moderately littered
18	Tullamore	Moderately littered
19	Tallaght	Moderately littered
20	Portlaoise	Moderately littered
21	Cork City	Moderately littered
22	Navan	Serious litter problem
23	Newbridge	Serious litter problem
24	Galway	Serious litter problem
25	Dundalk	Serious litter problem
26	Limerick	Serious litter problem
27	Dublin City	Litter blackspot
28	Maynooth	Litter blackspot
29	Sligo	Litter blackspot
30	Swords	Litter blackspot

The final results for 2004 of IBAL's survey of towns and cities across Ireland will be announced in December.

For further information contact
Dawn Burke / Conor Horgan at Cullen Communications
Tel 6689099 Mobile 086-8217211 Fax 6689872

Editors note:
Set up in 1996, Irish Business Against Litter is an alliance encompassing more than 30 member companies, employing in excess of 70,000 staff. Members share a belief that continued economic prosperity - notably in the areas of tourism, food and direct foreign investment - is contingent on a clean, litter-free environment.