



Press Release -
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Carlow announced as cleanest town in Ireland

Carlow was announced as the cleanest town in Ireland at a ceremony in Dublin today. In the 2005 survey of litter levels in 57 towns and cities by Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL), Carlow pipped Cavan, winner of the title for the previous two years. Both were among 22 towns to be classed as litter-free – a dramatic improvement on 2004. The winning town received a special plaque from the Minister for State at the Department the Environment, Batt O’Keefe T.D.

The final results show average national litter levels improved to 75. The number of litter-free towns doubled from 11 to 22, while ‘litter blackspots’ remained at just 4. The League is run in conjunction with the Department of the Environment.

“These results continue a positive trend of recent years,” comments IBAL Chairman Dr Tom Cavanagh. “Despite increased consumption and urbanisation, there is no doubt that our country is becoming a cleaner place to live and work in. In 2002, we had just 2 towns achieving ‘litter-free status’ or 80 points. Taken as an average, we now have the top 44 towns in the country reaching that mark. It’s the 13 towns graded ‘seriously littered’ or worse that need to be targeted.”

An Taisce, in its report on Carlow, commented: “Clearly both the residents and those responsible for cleaning public areas take great care and attention. What sets this and other very good towns apart is the overall impression created in an area. It is not just the lack of litter but the way in which grounds are maintained in general. The Carlow-Kilkenny Approach Road creates a positive first impression and this is sustained throughout.”

Commenced in February, the 2005 Anti Litter League is the largest ever litter survey conducted in Ireland, with all areas of over 6,000 population covered over the course of the year. Sites are graded by An Taisce according to international standards.

According to IBAL, it is the transparency and competitiveness of its ‘Name and Shame’ approach that has spurred local government into action on litter.

Other towns, notably Carlow, have successfully adopted the formula on a local level. A similar programme has run in Cork and most recently, Navan initiated a ‘street league’ to remedy its litter problem. “It is the local authority which has taken the lead here,” comments Dr Cavanagh. “Those in charge of poorly performing areas have a responsibility to ask why they are not doing likewise.”

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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.

2005 IBAL ANTI-LITTER LEAGUE: FINAL RESULTS

Ranking	Town / City	Description
1	Carlow	"Litter Free Status"
2	Cavan	"Litter Free Status"
3	Fermoy	"Litter Free Status"
4	Dundalk	"Litter Free Status"
5	Trim	"Litter Free Status"
6	Athy	"Litter Free Status"
7	Waterford City	"Litter Free Status"
8	Roscommon	"Litter Free Status"
9	Portlaoise	"Litter Free Status"
10	Tralee	"Litter Free Status"
11	Dun Laoghaire	"Litter Free Status"
12	Arklow	"Litter Free Status"
13	Longford	"Litter Free Status"
14	Dungarvan	"Litter Free Status"
15	Mullingar	"Litter Free Status"
16	Wexford	"Litter Free Status"
17	Terenure	"Litter Free Status"
18	Letterkenny	"Litter Free Status"
19	Killarney	"Litter Free Status"
20	Midleton	"Litter Free Status"
21	Kilkenny	"Litter Free Status"
22	Galway City	"Litter Free Status"
23	Mallow	Moderately Littered
24	Blackrock/Mahon	Moderately Littered
25	Drogheda	Moderately Littered
26	Swords	Moderately Littered
27	Cork	Moderately Littered
28	Athlone	Moderately Littered
29	Wicklow	Moderately Littered
30	Ballina	Moderately Littered
31	Skerries	Moderately Littered
32	Enniscorthy	Moderately Littered
33	Limerick City	Moderately Littered
34	Ballsbridge	Moderately Littered
35	Sligo	Moderately Littered
36	Castlebar	Moderately Littered
37	Thurles	Moderately Littered
38	Newbridge	Moderately Littered
39	Youghal	Moderately Littered
40	Monaghan	Moderately Littered
41	Bray	Moderately Littered
42	Maynooth	Moderately Littered
43	Clonmel	Moderately Littered
44	Tallaght	Moderately Littered
45	Drumcondra	Serious Litter Problem
46	Lucan	Serious Litter Problem
47	Dublin City Centre	Serious Litter Problem
48	Nenagh	Serious Litter Problem

49	Naas	Serious Litter Problem
50	Gorey	Serious Litter Problem
51	Ennis	Serious Litter Problem
52	Tullamore	Serious Litter Problem
53	Navan	Serious Litter Problem
54	Ballinasloe	Litter Blackspot
55	Cobh	Litter Blackspot
56	Finglas	Litter Blackspot
57	Mayfield/Dillons Cross	Litter Blackspot