



Press Release
Monday, 5 January 2009

Howth announced as cleanest town in Ireland

Howth was today announced as the cleanest town in Ireland at a ceremony in Dublin. In the 2008 survey of litter levels in 55 towns and cities by Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL), Howth pipped Fermoy as the overall winner of the league for 2008. Both were among a record number of towns (36 towns) to be classed as "litter-free". The winning town was presented with a special plaque from Dr Tom Cavanagh, Chairman of IBAL.

An Taisce, who conduct the litter surveys, in its report on Howth commented "Well done to Howth and Fingal County Council. This is Ireland as it should be. Hopefully other towns in Dublin county will emulate in 2009.

Speaking to local authority representatives at the ceremony, Dr Tom Cavanagh of IBAL warned that litter wardens were not receiving enough support in carrying out their enforcement duties. "In smaller towns it takes courage to impose a litter fine on a local business. All too often, more senior officials strike off such fines. This explains in part the huge gap between fines imposed and fines actually paid."

In the most recent analysis of litter fines in a 6-month period (Jan - June 2008), a total of 14,276 fines were served nationwide, of which only 46% were paid.

"The net result is a demotivated warden, whose diligent work has been undermined. Also, the cost of clean-up, which under the Litter Act is the responsibility of the offending business, in fact falls to the local authority. It is the taxpayer who is forced to pay for the cleaning of the streets when the local authority fails in their duty to enforce fines and therefore reduce these costs."

He cited Tallaght as an example of a town where a dramatic rise in enforcement has helped transform the environs

The An Taisce report for Howth found the following:

Dublin Approach Road: Clean to European Norms. An excellent main approach road with wide grass verge on the right hand side. A disused site on the left, though unsightly, didn't harbour any litter.

Howth Main Street: Clean to European Norms. This was an excellent main street with attractive shops and signage.

Thormanby Approach Road: Clean to European Norms. (from Casana View to village). A very clean and fresh approach road into Howth. The overall presentation was excellent.

Howth Primary School: Clean to European Norms. (School surveyed from outside the grounds). This is a Green Flag School, which was in excellent condition. Playing areas, car parking and basketball courts etc. were all clear of litter. This was a very good site overall."

The IBAL 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, ensuring that the areas covered, have an overall population of close to 2 million people. Sites are graded by An Taisce according to international standards.

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Editors note:

Set up in 1996, Irish Business Against Litter is an alliance of companies sharing 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.

IBAL Anti Litter League Finale Results Table 2008

Ranking	Town/City	Status
1	Howth	'Clean to European Norms'
2	Fermoy	'Clean to European Norms'
3	Cavan	'Clean to European Norms'
4	Sligo	'Clean to European Norms'
5	Dungarvan	'Clean to European Norms'
6	Letterkenny	'Clean to European Norms'
7	Greystones	'Clean to European Norms'
8	Galway City	'Clean to European Norms'
9	Leixlip	'Clean to European Norms'
10	Monaghan	'Clean to European Norms'
11	Dundalk	'Clean to European Norms'
12	Portlaoise	'Clean to European Norms'
13	Ennis	'Clean to European Norms'
14	Swords	'Clean to European Norms'
15	Wicklow	'Clean to European Norms'
16	Trim	'Clean to European Norms'
17	Mullingar	'Clean to European Norms'
18	Gorey	'Clean to European Norms'
19	Arklow	'Clean to European Norms'
20	Ballinasloe	'Clean to European Norms'
21	Navan	'Clean to European Norms'
22	Limerick City	'Clean to European Norms'
23	Nenagh	'Clean to European Norms'
24	Dun Laoghaire	'Clean to European Norms'
25	Maynooth	'Clean to European Norms'
26	Ranelagh	'Clean to European Norms'
27	Tallaght	'Clean to European Norms'
28	Killarney	'Clean to European Norms'
29	Castlebar	'Clean to European Norms'
30	Newbridge	'Clean to European Norms'
31	Ballina	'Clean to European Norms'
32	Balbriggan	'Clean to European Norms'
33	Youghal	'Clean to European Norms'
34	Waterford City	'Clean to European Norms'
35	Clonmel	'Clean to European Norms'
36	Naas	'Clean to European Norms'
37	Enniscorty	Moderately Littered
38	Drumcondra	Moderately Littered
39	Kilkenny	Moderately Littered
40	Mallow	Moderately Littered
41	Drogheda	Moderately Littered
42	Wexford	Moderately Littered

43	Carlow	Moderately Littered
44	Athlone	Moderately Littered
45	Dublin City	Moderately Littered
46	Thurles	Moderately Littered
47	Longford	Moderately Littered
48	Midleton	Littered
49	Athy	Littered
50	Tralee	Littered
51	Cork City	Littered
52	Roscommon	Littered
53	Bray	Seriously Littered
54	Tullamore	Seriously Littered
55	Cobh	Seriously Littered