



Press Release

Monday, 5th January 2015

Hat-trick for Kilkenny in IBAL litter league

For the third year in a row, Kilkenny is again Ireland's cleanest town. The announcement was made at the Finale of the 2014 Anti-Litter League by Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) in the Shelbourne Hotel in Dublin today.

It was also the third year in a row that Cavan – a previous winner and consistently one of our cleanest towns – was pipped to the title. Longford and Tramore finished in joint 3rd position in the ranking of 40 towns and cities. The latest results show 85% of Irish towns and cities are at least as clean as their European equivalents.

An Taisce, who conduct the surveys on behalf of IBAL, commented in their report: "Mirroring Brian Cody's success, another clean sweep for Kilkenny ... one noticeable feature of the city is the general presentation of the main shopping streets. The sites weren't just clear of litter but very attractively presented. It has many independent shops and cafes rather than the usual sameness that often pervades other towns. As well as the shopping streets, other good sites included the River Bank and Kilkenny Railway Station – it was in pristine condition, both interior and exterior."

Congratulating Kilkenny, Conor Horgan of IBAL, said that Kilkenny's sustained success has set the standard for others to follow, in demonstrating year after year that it is possible to keep a busy city, which entertains lots of visitors, consistently free of litter.

In recognition of its victory, Kilkenny will receive a suite of Emperor Lime trees courtesy of the Irish Tree Centre in Cork.

Addressing local authority representatives, Mr Horgan said that the impact of the dissolution of town councils on litter levels would only become apparent in 2015, but warned of a potential disconnect between towns and the county authorities responsible for litter management. "The more local the

better, would be our view of litter management, both in terms of responding to local needs as they arise and to liaising with community groups such as Tidy Towns. By way of analogy, if you owned a hotel chain you wouldn't centralise the cleaning."

ENDS

**For further information contact
Conor Horgan on 086 8217211
or 086 387 4217,
cmjhorgan@gmail.com**

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. As part of the IBAL Anti-Litter League, An Taisce monitors towns independently and in accordance with international grading standards. The programme is run in conjunction with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

Visit www.ibal.ie for further information.

**2014 IBAL ANTI-LITTER LEAGUE –
FINAL STANDINGS**

1	Kilkenny	Cleaner than European Norms
2	Cavan	Cleaner than European Norms
T3	Longford	Cleaner than European Norms
T3	Tramore	Cleaner than European Norms
T5	Tullamore	Cleaner than European Norms
T5	Wexford	Cleaner than European Norms
7	Waterford City	Cleaner than European Norms
8	Roscommon	Cleaner than European Norms
9	Clonmel	Cleaner than European Norms
10	Killarney	Cleaner than European Norms
11	Letterkenny	Cleaner than European Norms
12	Monaghan	Cleaner than European Norms
13	Navan	Cleaner than European Norms
T14	Swords	Cleaner than European Norms
T14	Dun Laoghaire	Cleaner than European Norms
16	Newbridge	Cleaner than European Norms
17	Dublin Airport Environs	Cleaner than European Norms
18	Mullingar	Clean to European Norms
T19	Fermoy	Clean to European Norms
T19	Leixlip	Clean to European Norms
21	Sligo	Clean to European Norms
22	Cobh	Clean to European Norms
23	Arklow	Clean to European Norms
24	Tipperary	Clean to European Norms
25	Tralee	Clean to European Norms
26	Portlaoise	Clean to European Norms
27	Athlone	Clean to European Norms
28	Cork City	Clean to European Norms
29	Dundalk	Clean to European Norms
30	Limerick City	Clean to European Norms
31	Carlow	Clean to European Norms
32	Ennis	Clean to European Norms
33	Ballina	Clean to European Norms
34	Galway City	Clean to European Norms
35	Drogheda	Moderately littered
36	Maynooth	Moderately littered
37	Tallaght	Moderately littered
38	Dublin City	Moderately littered
39	North Inner City Dublin	Seriously littered
40	Farranree, Cork	Litter blackspot