



**Press Release**

**Tuesday, 3rd January 2017**

**Kildare is deemed cleanest town in 2016 IBAL Litter League**  
***Public sculpture will be commissioned to mark achievement***

Kildare has been announced as the cleanest town in Ireland. The announcement was made at the Finale of the 2016 Anti-Litter League by Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) in the Merrion Hotel in Dublin today. Kildare finished ahead of Roscommon and Ashbourne, with Waterford City in fourth. A special public sculpture will be commissioned for the town to mark the achievement.

70% of the 40 towns and cities surveyed in 2016 were at least as clean as their European equivalents, a decrease on the previous year. There were again no litter blackspots, though only 40% of city areas surveyed were clean. It was the first time in a number of years that Kildare town had been included in the IBAL programme.

An Taisce, which conducts the surveys on behalf of IBAL, commented in its report on Kildare: **“It is rare to find a town in such spotless condition throughout. The Link Road and both approach roads into Kildare Town got the top litter grade and this high standard was sustained for all sites surveyed.”**

Congratulating Kildare, Conor Horgan of IBAL announced that once again a foremost artist would be commissioned in conjunction with the community at large to create a significant public sculpture in the town in recognition of its success. “Each year IBAL intends to mark the winning town’s achievement with a permanent piece of art that will enhance the local environment.”

The top 5 towns in last year’s league – Kildare, Roscommon, Ashbourne, Waterford and Thurles - will all receive an Emperor Lime tree courtesy of the Irish Tree Centre in Cork.

**ENDS**

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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.

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](http://www.ibal.ie) for further information.

#### 2016 IBAL ANTI-LITTER LEAGUE – FINAL STANDINGS

1	Kildare	Cleaner than European Norms
2	Roscommon	Cleaner than European Norms
3	Ashbourne	Cleaner than European Norms
4	Waterford City	Cleaner than European Norms
5	Thurles	Cleaner than European Norms
6	Enniscorthy	Cleaner than European Norms
=	Ennis	Cleaner than European Norms
8	Fermoy	Cleaner than European Norms
9	Dublin Airport Environs	Cleaner than European Norms
10	Shannon	Cleaner than European Norms
11	Kilkenny	Cleaner than European Norms
12	Killarney	Cleaner than European Norms
13	Carrick on Shannon	Cleaner than European Norms
14	Maynooth	Clean to European Norms
15	Longford	Clean to European Norms
16	Monaghan	Clean to European Norms
=	Portlaoise	Clean to European Norms
18	Cork City	Clean to European Norms
19	Tallaght	Clean to European Norms
20	Ballybeg (Waterford City)	Clean to European Norms
21	Navan	Clean to European Norms
22	Sligo	Clean to European Norms
23	Athlone	Clean to European Norms
24	Stillorgan (South Dublin)	Clean to European Norms
25	Carlow	Clean to European Norms
26	Dundalk	Clean to European Norms
27	Cavan	Clean to European Norms
28	Bray	Moderately littered
29	Ballinasloe	Moderately littered
30	Castlebar	Moderately littered
31	Dublin City Centre	Moderately littered
32	Limerick City	Moderately littered
33	Galway City	Moderately littered
34	Ballybane (Galway City)	Moderately littered
35	Letterkenny	Littered

36	Mahon (Cork City)	Littered
37	Ballymun (North Dublin)	Littered
38	Dublin North Inner City	Seriously littered
39	Farranree (Cork City)	Seriously littered
40	Galvone (Limerick City)	Seriously littered