



Press Release
Monday, 10 January 2011

Carlow announced as cleanest town in Ireland

Government failing to act on recommendations to address litter in cities, say IBAL

Carlow was announced as the cleanest town in Ireland at a ceremony in Dublin today, pipping Trim in the 2010 survey of litter levels in 53 towns and cities by Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL). Both were among 39 towns to be classed as “litter-free” in what was the most successful result since the programme started 9 years ago. The winning town was presented with a special plaque by Dr Tom Cavanagh, Chairman of IBAL, who criticised the Government for failing to tackle the issue of litter in cities, which shows little sign of reducing.

This was the 3rd time that Carlow had won the IBAL Litter League, the last being in 2005. An Taisce, who conduct the litter surveys, commented in its report on Carlow: “A superb result overall - all sites surveyed in Carlow were Grade A. There were Litter Awareness and / or Dog Fouling notices at all of the sites surveyed – perhaps the constant reminder of same is having the desired effect. Clearly a very effective and efficient cleaning and maintenance process is in place, combined with respect by the users of the facilities / environment. Well down to all who work so diligently to present Carlow at its best and to the citizens who co-operate so enthusiastically.”

To mark its success, Carlow will receive a number of trees for planting locally. These are provided by the Irish Tree Centre, an IBAL member based in County Cork (www.treecentre.ie).

Of the 53 towns surveyed by IBAL, 39, or 74%, were judged litter-free, a record percentage since the League began in 2002, when only two towns were litter-free. No town was classed as a litter blackspot, with Portlaoise the only town to receive a ‘seriously littered’ grading. Our two biggest cities fared poorly, with Cork falling to second from bottom, and Dublin in a lowly 50th position.

Speaking to local authority representatives at the ceremony, Dr Tom Cavanagh said that IBAL had proposed a number of measures to Government to tackle litter in the main urban centres, but that these had “fallen on deaf ears”. “We had hoped for some meaningful measures from Minister Gormley in 2010, but none has been delivered.” IBAL is seeking cleaning schedules for national routes, as occurs in Northern Ireland. It is also proposing that within the €45m which the National Roads Authority allocates to local authorities, a defined amount is set aside specifically for cleaning up litter. “In addition, a report on dumping was promised, but has failed to materialise as yet,” said Dr Cavanagh. “None of these issues has been acted upon, so it is no wonder that the entry points to Dublin and Cork in particular are still blighted by litter.” The organisation has also been calling for a tax on conventional chewing gum, with a view to developing a market for degradable gum.

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IBAL Anti Litter League Final Standings 2010		
Ranking	Towns/Cities	Status
1	Carlow	Clean to European Norms
2	Trim	Clean to European Norms
3	Longford	Clean to European Norms
4	Wexford	Clean to European Norms
5	Drogheda	Clean to European Norms
6	Clonmel	Clean to European Norms
7	Ballincollig	Clean to European Norms
8	Cavan	Clean to European Norms
9	Tullamore	Clean to European Norms
10	Blanchardstown	Clean to European Norms
	Killarney	Clean to European Norms
12	Swords	Clean to European Norms
13	Lucan	Clean to European Norms
14	Letterkenny	Clean to European Norms

	Kildare	Clean to European Norms
16	Dun Laoghaire	Clean to European Norms
17	Kilkenny	Clean to European Norms
	Dungarvan	Clean to European Norms
	Arklow	Clean to European Norms
20	Fermoy	Clean to European Norms
21	Bray	Clean to European Norms
	Ennis	Clean to European Norms
	Dundalk	Clean to European Norms
	Sligo	Clean to European Norms
25	Newcastlewest	Clean to European Norms
26	Waterford City	Clean to European Norms
27	Tramore	Clean to European Norms
28	Tuam	Clean to European Norms
	Galway City	Clean to European Norms
30	Tralee	Clean to European Norms
31	Ballinasloe	Clean to European Norms
32	Youghal	Clean to European Norms
33	Ballina	Clean to European Norms
34	Wicklow	Clean to European Norms
35	Monaghan	Clean to European Norms
36	Newbridge	Clean to European Norms
37	Mullingar	Clean to European Norms
38	Castlebar	Clean to European Norms
39	Limerick City	Clean to European Norms
40	Cobh	Moderately Littered
41	Naas	Moderately Littered
42	Athlone	Moderately Littered
43	Enniscorthy	Moderately Littered
44	Roscommon	Moderately Littered
45	Navan	Moderately Littered
46	Tallaght	Moderately Littered
47	Midleton	Moderately Littered
48	Mallow	Littered
49	Nenagh	Littered
50	Dublin City	Littered
51	New Ross	Littered
52	Cork City	Littered
53	Portlaoise	Serious Litter Problem

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.