

PROPERTY OWNERS/BUSINESSES

Any outdoor area on your property that is visible from a public place must be kept free of litter. Furthermore, if you occupy land or premises along a public road you are legally required to keep the footpaths and pavements in front of your property free of litter. Failure to do so could result in €125 On the Spot litter fines being issued.

Litter Generators – these businesses have been identified nationally as potential litter generators. If you operate any of these businesses you should be extra vigilant.

- *Bars and Pubs* should ensure that no cigarette butts are left on the pavement outside the premises from customers.
- *Banks* should ensure that ATM receipts are not left on the pavement from customers.
- *Takeaways* should ensure that the area outside their premises is kept free of litter.
- *Sweet Shops/convenience stores* should ensure that no receipts, wrappers, lottery cards are on the pavement outside their premises.
- *Bookmakers/ Turf Accountants* betting slips or cigarette butts discarded outside your premises should be removed.

Failure to keep the area and footpath outside your premises free of litter will result in an On the Spot fine of €125 being issued to you.

IRISH BUSINESS AGAINST LITTER LEAGUE.

Set up in 1996, Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) 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. As part of the IBAL Anti-Litter League, all towns with a population of 6,000 and over are monitored independently by An Taisce in accordance with international grading standards.

Monaghan Town is monitored by IBAL and at one stage Monaghan was deemed to be the third cleanest Town in Ireland and considered to be "clean to European norms" however since then the Town has gone backwards. The last report in 2005 had Monaghan placed 40th nationally and described as "moderately littered". Surely as a town we should aspire to be Clean to European Norms, to achieve this however, we need everybody to play their part in tackling litter pollution.

ENFORCEMENT

- In Monaghan Town the Traffic Wardens also act as Litter Wardens. The wardens are authorised to issue **€125 On the Spot fines** to any person or business that breaks the litter laws.
- Monaghan County Council employs an Environmental Patrol Officer who enforces the Litter laws in the County. The Patrol Officer deals with all litter complaints that the County Council receives. The Council aims to do this as quickly and as efficiently as possible.
- The County Council and Town Council issued over 80 **€125 On the Spot fines in 2005**. Failure to pay the **€125 On the Spot fine** could result in prosecution. **19 cases were referred to the courts in 2005. The maximum fine on conviction is €3000.**



Monaghan Local Authorities "Promoting a Litter Free Environment"

CONTACT DETAILS.

Monaghan County Council Environment Section

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Email: environ@monaghancoco.ie

Monaghan County Council Environmental Awareness Officer

Tel: 047 30556

Monaghan Town Council

Tel: 047 82600.

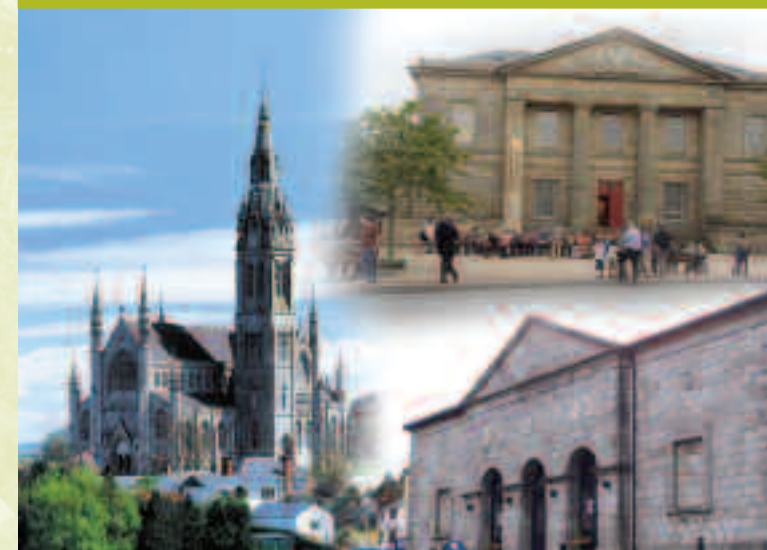
Confidential 24 hour litterline:

Freephone: 1800200014

This is printed on 100% recycled paper

Litter

The Law & Monaghan Town



Monaghan Town Council
Comhairle Baile Mhuineachain



Monaghan County Council
Comhairle Chontae Mhuineachain

LITTER & MONAGHAN TOWN

Everybody would like to live in an environment free of litter. However the reality is somewhat different. In Monaghan Town there is ample evidence to suggest that there is a problem with litter, particularly at weekends. Why do we tolerate this and what can be done?

In the last number of years Monaghan County Council, Monaghan Town Council and voluntary and community groups like Monaghan Tidy Towns have made considerable progress in improving the appearance of our Town. Projects such as Ulster Canal Park, Courthouse Square and the Market House have helped – but the eradication of litter should remain the number one priority for everybody living and working in Monaghan Town.

LITTER AND THE LAW

These activities are illegal and subject to a €125 on the spot fine.

- Throwing litter in a public place.
- Throwing litter from a vehicle.
- Failing to keep your land or footpath outside of your premises free of litter.
- Failing to keep your land which is visible from a public place free of litter.
- Sweeping litter from a footpath onto a road.
- Placing posters or notices/advertisements on structures that are visible from a public place.
- Failing to remove faeces deposited by your dog. *Know the law or face the penalty!*

COST OF CLEANING UP LITTER

Monaghan Town Council spends in excess of €300,000 on litter related activities on an annual basis. If there was less litter on our streets some of this money could be spent elsewhere in improving the Town Council's services to the public.

IT'S A TAKE AWAY NOT A THROW AWAY!

The problem of littering is particularly bad at weekends when a large amount of take away litter ends up on the streets, pavements and roads of the Town.

Everybody, including take away premises, is responsible for ensuring that take away packaging does not end up as litter.

Monaghan Town Council treats the littering of our streets with takeaway packaging very seriously and it wishes to inform the public that it will no longer be tolerated. €125 On the Spot litter fines will be issued.



WHY IS LITTER SO BAD?

- Litter is a form of pollution that damages our environment. Unlike many other environmental problems litter has been caused by everybody. However the good news is that it can be easily solved through a change in attitude and behaviour.
- Litter is a health hazard and it can be a breeding ground for vermin which can cause diseases e.g. Weils disease or Leptospirosis.
- Litter is a threat to wildlife. Birds, mammals and fish can be injured or even killed by litter.
- Litter can seriously affect an area's reputation. Nobody wants to live in an area that has been branded as "seriously littered."

LITTER AT BOTTLE BANKS

Bottle banks which are a community resource are being abused by some people. Leaving rubbish at the banks rather than using them for their intended purpose i.e. recycling glass and aluminium cans, is against the law and greatly undermines the recycling efforts of other people.

Monaghan County Council is in the process of purchasing a mobile CCTV camera unit to be placed at bottle banks to catch fly tippers.

Be warned if you dump material at the bottle banks you will be fined or prosecuted.

