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**National Litter Seminar 2004**

The National Litter Seminar was held in the Tullamore Court Hotel on the 27th of October. It was a very successful Seminar; the Key Recommendations are outlined on page two. The main recommendations are similar to that of last year and include action to counteract the perception that chewing gum and cigarettes are not perceived as litter. The workshop summaries are available on [www.litter.ie](http://www.litter.ie)

**Thank you to all those who attended the Seminar.**

**National Litter Results 2003 Published**

The second Annual System Results Report produced by the Litter Monitoring Body was published on 17 of August 2004 by Mr. Pat the Cope Gallagher T.D., Minister for State at the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The survey results highlight that cigarette related litter, food related litter and packaging litter continue to be the most significant components of litter. Overall, national cleanliness ratings for areas surveyed have improved. For the first time it is possible to identify and analyse trends in litter pollution. The main findings are detailed on pages three to nine of this update.

**Litter Website Launch**

Mr. Pat the Cope Gallagher, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, on the 19th July 2004 launched the new website of the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System. The website, which is the first of its kind in Ireland, will enable local authorities to exchange information on both the implementation of the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System and Best Practice regarding litter prevention and control of litter throughout the country. It can be accessed at [www.litter.ie](http://www.litter.ie).

**Litter Management Plan Assessment**

Under the Litter Pollution Act, 1997, local authorities are required to adopt Litter Management Plans. The legislation prescribes the specific minimum components of a Litter Management Plan, requiring information on litter prevention and control activities and the setting of appropriate objectives and targets for the three-year period covered by the Plan. During 2004, the Litter Monitoring Body carried out an assessment of the Litter Management Plans received by 24 local authorities that have been adopted/amended since the original assessment carried out in 2000. The National report is available on [www.litter.ie](http://www.litter.ie).

**News**

The LMB are currently preparing a Summary Document of the Litter Monitoring Manual, this will be forwarded to all local authorities along with the GIS summary and an update to Appendices five and six.

## National Litter Seminar 2004

The National Litter Seminar was held in the Tullamore Court Hotel on the 27th of October 2004. The Seminar was divided into two sessions, the **presentation** session which included the LMB presenting the 2003 Survey Results, presentations on further development of the System and a presentation by the LGCSB on the GIS component of the System; and a **workshop** session which are outlined below:

1. Additional Uses of the GIS Database and current difficulties with the System;
2. Applying the Litter Monitoring System to Litter Management Planning;
3. Recommendations for action on specific components of litter; and
4. Recommendations for litter control at specific areas.

The following key actions have been identified from the workshop sessions, as priority concerns for local authorities in order to advance litter abatement activities.

- ◆ The main problems identified with **cigarette and chewing gum litter is the perception** that these items are not litter and are biodegradable. There is a need for a National Awareness Campaign to inform the public that discarded chewing gum and cigarette ends are actually litter, and that prosecutions can be made under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 if these items are littered.
- ◆ **Children are identified as a major causative factor**, therefore the results should be distributed to schools to make children aware that they are causing litter in their area.
- ◆ There is a significant need to **distribute the Litter Pollution Results** to all levels of personnel within the **local authorities**, including Environmental Education Officers, Area Cleanliness Officers, Litter Monitoring Officers and Litter Wardens. There is also a need to distribute the litter pollution results to **Elected Council Members** so that they can appreciate the main causes and components of litter in their area. It has also been considered that the results need to be distributed to **retail outlets, pubs** etc and the **public** so that they can understand what causes litter, what the main components of litter are in their area and how severe litter pollution is in their area.
- ◆ There is a need for a **co-ordinated approach across all levels of society** to make the public aware of their responsibility under the Litter Pollution Act 1997. This awareness campaign should include the National Awareness Campaign from the DoEHLG, as mentioned above backed up with awareness campaigns from the GAA, Chamber of Commerce and local authorities own campaigns.

# Litter Pollution Survey Results

The Litter Pollution Survey indicates the extent and severity of litter pollution within local authority areas. The severity of litter pollution is measured using the Litter Pollution Index (LPI) which is a scale from 1 to 5 as described below. In addition a set of Area Cleanliness Photos are available on [www.litter.ie](http://www.litter.ie), it is recommended that these are distributed to surveyors each year before surveying to ensure familiarity with the ratings and to ensure a consistent application of standards over time by surveying staff.



**1. Unpolluted**



**2. Slightly Polluted**



**3. Moderately Polluted**

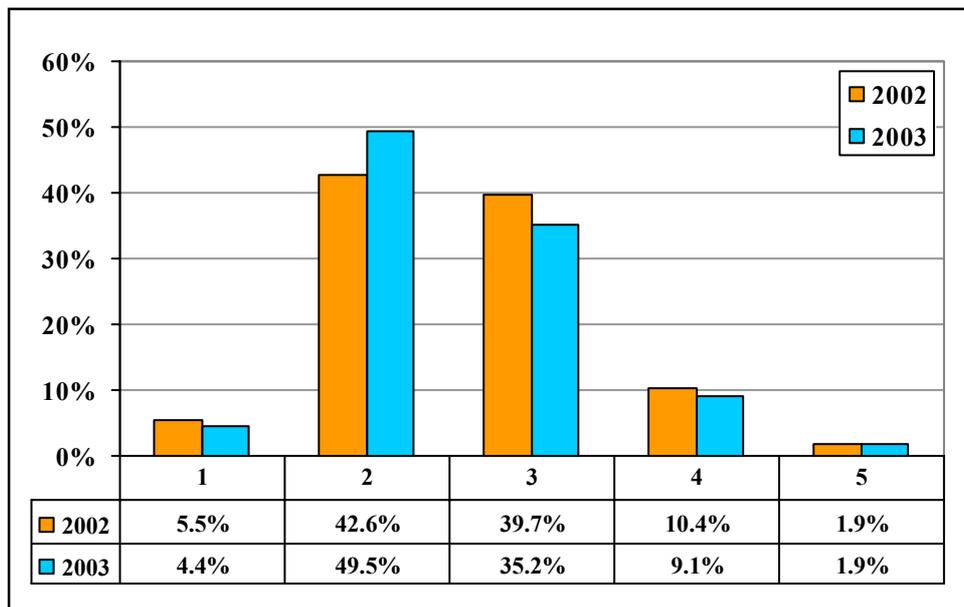


**4. Significantly Polluted**



**5. Grossly Polluted**

# Litter Pollution Survey Results



The above graph compares the national results of Litter Pollution Surveys carried out in 2002 and 2003 - this indicates the severity of litter pollution on a national basis. The results of the 2003 surveys indicate that despite a slight decrease in the percentage of litter free areas (of Litter Pollution Index 1), an overall improvement – a shift of some 7% - has been experienced in relation to litter pollution in the period from 2002 to 2003. A significant increase in LPI 2 (slightly polluted) is indicated, and corresponding decreases in Litter Pollution Indices 3 and 4 (moderately and significantly polluted). The percentage of grossly polluted areas (of LPI 5) has remained unchanged at less than 2%.

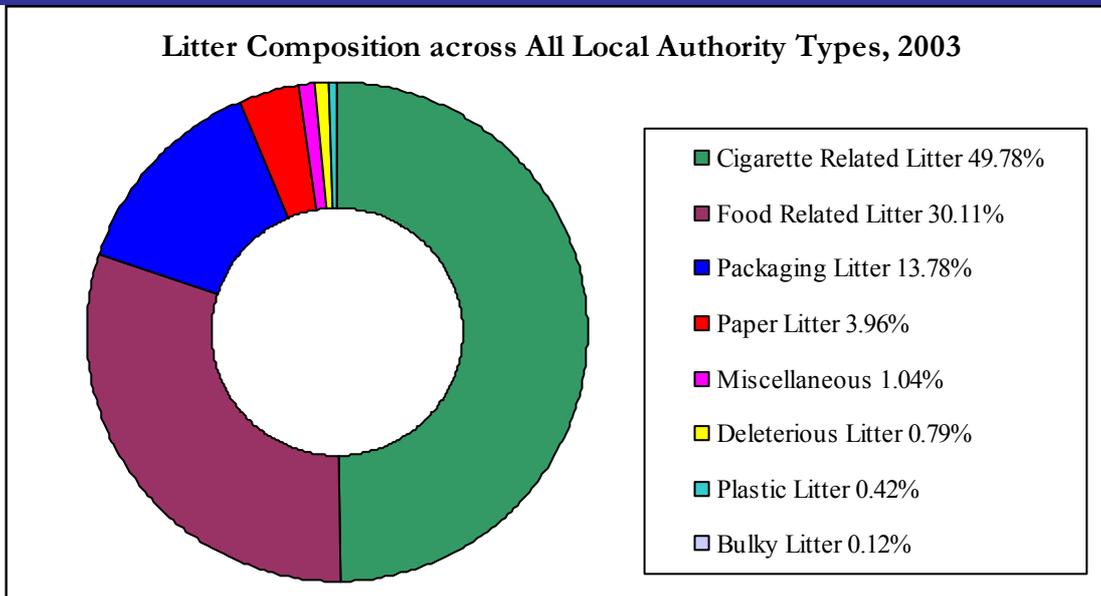
The litter pollution data for 2003 is based on survey results returned to the Litter Monitoring Body from a total of 34 out of 90 local authorities. Although this does not represent the national picture, trends may be observed from the results. Trends that emerged in 2002 have continued into 2003 with areas of LPI 1 (unpolluted - litter free) and LPI 5 (grossly

polluted) occurring in the lower percentages. Furthermore, the LPI of the majority of areas surveyed was either 2 (slightly polluted) or 3 (moderately polluted). However, in 2003 results shifted away from LPI 3 and 4 towards LPI 2, indicating an overall improvement.

The “bell” shaped distribution of values in the graph is what one would expect from the initial series of survey results under the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System, with the majority of locations surveyed being slightly or moderately littered. As more local authorities carry out surveys in the years ahead and use the data from the ongoing surveys to improve local litter management planning, the percentage of LPI 1 or litter free values should increase and the other LPI values decrease as improved litter management practices are implemented.

# Litter Quantification Survey Results

Litter Composition across All Local Authority Types, 2003



## Cigarette Related Litter

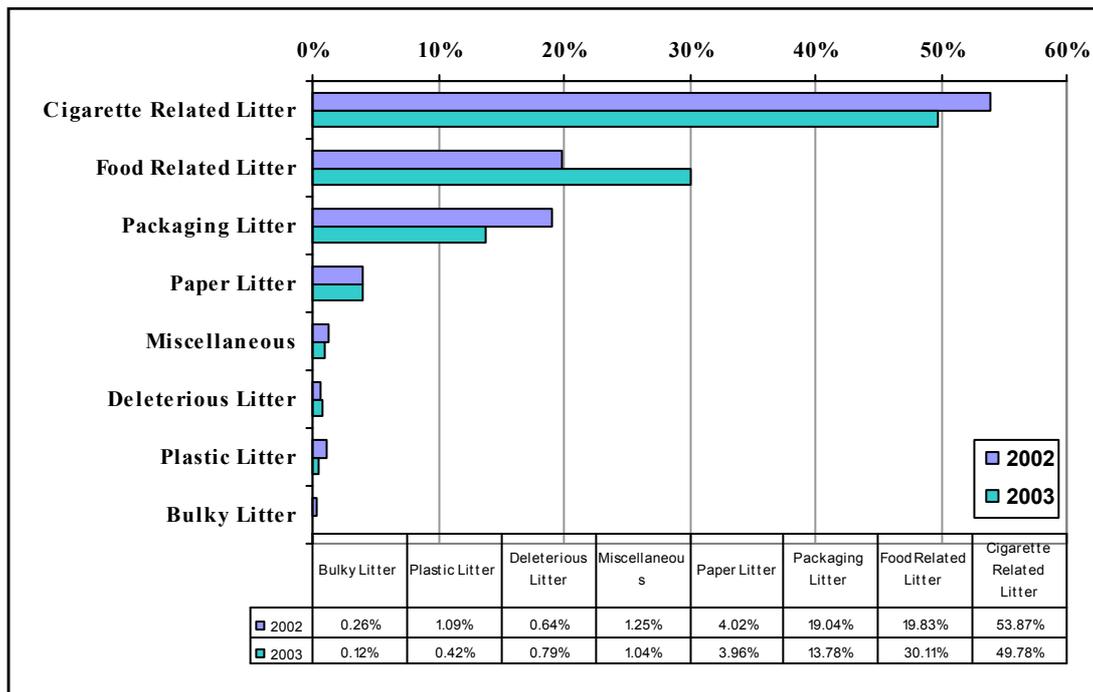
- In 2003, cigarette related litter constituted the highest percentage (49.78%) of litter at a national level;
- Cigarette butts constituted the most littered individual item nationally at 40.89%;
- Within individual local authority types, cigarette related litter was greatest within Dublin Local Authorities (72.54% of litter item), and lowest in County Councils where it represented 44.52% of litter; and
- The percentage of cigarette related litter decreased from 2002 - 2003 by approximately 4% (see graph on pg. six).



## Food Related Litter

- Food related litter accounted for 30.11% of the total litter count, an increase of over 10% from 2002 (see graph on pg. six);
- The majority of this litter category was chewing gum, which accounted for 28.26% of the total litter composition nationally; and
- Food related litter was greatest in County (34.84%) and City Councils (33.59%).

## Comparison of Litter Quantification Survey Results 2002 - 2003



### Packaging Litter

- Packaging litter accounts for 13.78% of all litter items nationally;
- Apart from miscellaneous packaging, the largest component of packaging litter was takeaway bags and wrappers, which amounted to 14.50% of the total amount of packaging litter found on the streets during the Litter Quantification Surveys;
- Paper packaging accounted for 30.23% of packaging litter; apart from miscellaneous paper packaging, this was primarily drink cartons;



- Beverage cans comprise 11.84% of packaging litter, the breakdown between non alcoholic and alcoholic is 7.86% and 3.98% respectively;
- Plastic beverage bottles constitute 8.75% of packaging litter; and
- 7.97% of packaging litter comprised glass bottles (4.85% non alcoholic and 3.12% alcoholic).

### Trends from 2002 - 2003

- Cigarette related litter decreased by approximately 4% from 53.87% to 49.78%.
- Food related litter increased significantly from 19.83% to 30.11%. This was due to an increase in the percentage of chewing gum litter (18.49% in 2002 to 28.26% in 2003).
- The percentage of packaging litter decreased from 19.04% in 2002 to 13.78% in 2003.

# Causative Factors of Litter Pollution

During the Litter Pollution Surveys, surveyors are asked for observations on the primary causes of litter pollution. The main causative factors identified in Litter Pollution Surveys carried out in 2003 are set out in the graph below. Causative factors are expressed as a percentage of the total number of causative factors identified in all Litter Pollution Surveys.

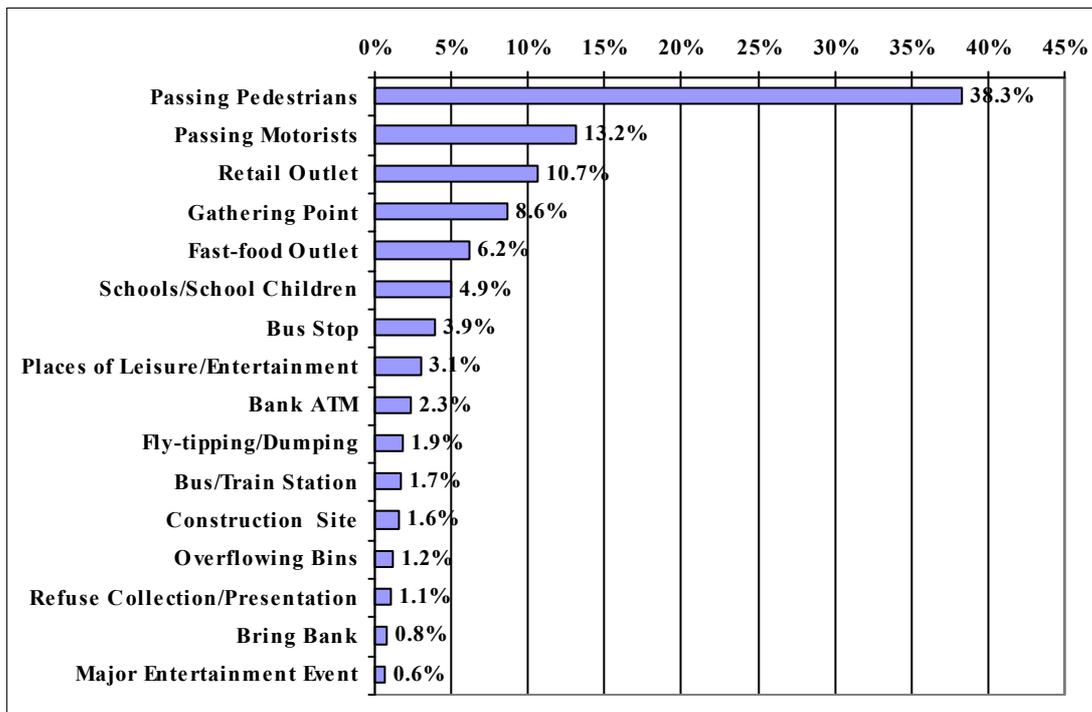


Table 1: Causative Factors of Litter Pollution across all local authority types 2003

## Main Findings

In **City Councils**, the primary causative factors were as follows:

- Passing Pedestrians (38.7%);
- Passing Motorists (16.0%);
- Fast-food Outlets (10.6%); and
- Retail Outlet (8.2%).

In **County Councils**, the most significant causative factors were:

- Passing Pedestrians (35.6%);
- Passing Motorists (20.9%);
- Retail Outlet (9.8%); and
- Gathering Point (8.0%).

In **Borough and Town Councils**, the main causes of litter pollution were:

- Passing Pedestrians (30.7%);
- Passing Motorists (12.2%);
- Schools/School Children (10.5%); and
- Fast-food Outlet (10.4%).

The primary causative factors of litter in **Dublin Local Authorities** were:

- Passing Pedestrians (43.3%);
- Retail Outlet (12.9%);
- Gathering Point (9.4%); and
- Passing Motorists (7.5%).

As pollution severity increases, the significance of certain causative factors changes. This is illustrated by the graph on page eight.

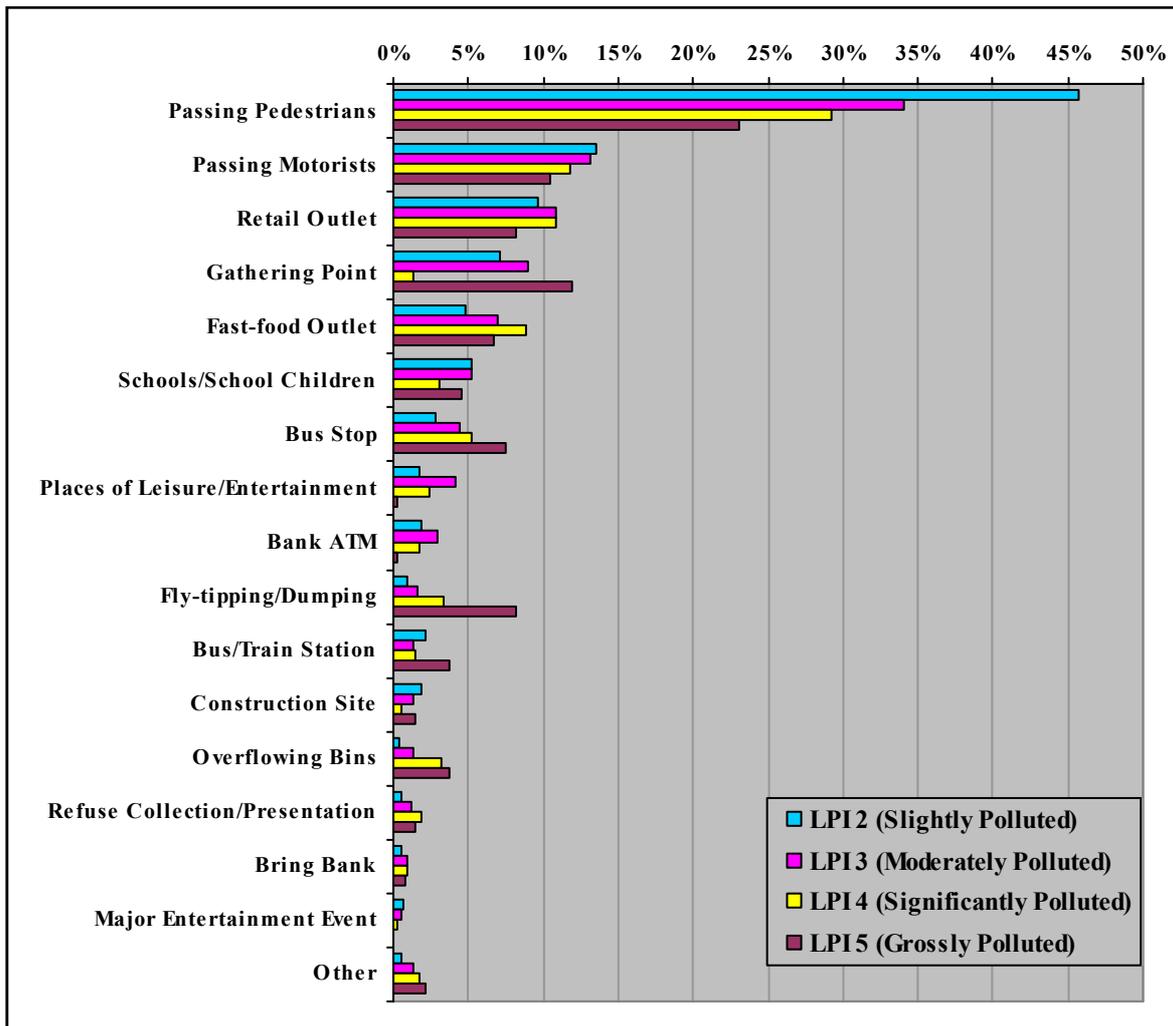


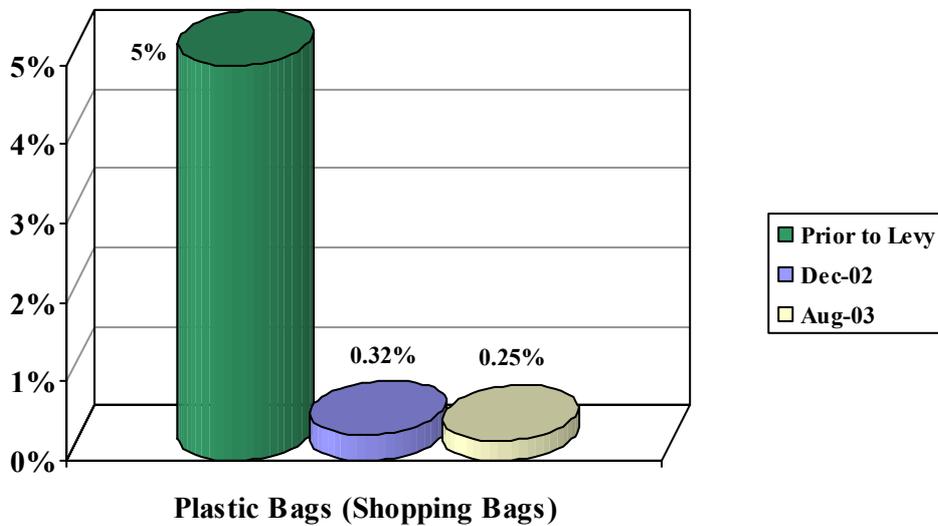
Table 2: Comparison of Causative Factors of Litter Pollution within Litter Pollution Indexes 2-5

	Passing Pedestrians	Passing Motorists	Retail Outlet	Gathering Point	Fast-food Outlet	Schools/School Children	Bus Stop	Places of Leisure/Entertainment	Bank ATM	Fly-tipping / Dumping	Bus / Train Station	Construction Site	Overflowing Bins	Refuse Collection / Presentation	Bring Bank	Major Entertainment Event	Other
LPI 2	45.7%	13.6%	9.6%	7.1%	4.8%	5.2%	2.85	1.7%	1.9%	0.9%	2.1%	1.9%	0.4%	0.6%	0.5%	0.7%	0.5%
LPI 3	34.0%	13.1%	10.9%	9.0%	7.0%	5.2%	4.4%	4.1%	2.9%	1.6%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.2%	0.9%	0.5%	1.3%
LPI 4	29.2%	11.8%	10.9%	13.0%	8.9%	3.1%	5.2%	2.4%	1.8%	3.4%	1.5%	0.6%	3.2%	1.9%	1.0%	0.3%	1.8%
LPI 5	23.1%	10.5%	8.2%	11.9%	6.7%	4.5%	7.5%	3.0%	3.0%	8.2%	3.7%	1.5%	3.7%	1.5%	0.8%	0.0%	2.2%

In each category of Litter Pollution Index (LPI), passing pedestrians constituted the most significant causative factor of litter pollution. However, as the degree of litter pollution increases (and the LPI value increases), this causative factor becomes a less significant contributor to litter pollution. Accordingly, passing pedestrians constituted 45.7% of all causative factors in litter pollution surveys of areas slightly littered (LPI of 2); the percentage decreased to 23.1% as the severity of litter pollution in the surveyed areas reached the maximum ranking of LPI 5. As the severity of litter pollution increases, other causative factors such as gathering points, bus stops and fly-tipping become more predominant.

In the slightly and moderately polluted categories (LPI 2 and 3 respectively), passing motorists, retail outlets and gathering points were significant causes of litter pollution. In the significantly and grossly polluted categories (LPI 4 and 5), causative factors such as fast food outlets and bus stops became more apparent. Also, in the grossly polluted category (LPI 5), incidents of fly-tipping and dumping contributed more to litter pollution (8.2 % of causative factors) than in any other category.

## Plastic Bag Levy



The National Litter Pollution Monitoring System may be used to measure the impact of certain anti litter measures. Monitoring the percentage change in the constituent elements of litter pollution at national or local level over time allows conclusions to be drawn on the effectiveness of national or local anti-litter strategies.

The graph illustrates the impact of the plastic bag levy. Prior to the introduction of the levy in March 2002, it was estimated that 1.3 billion shopping bags were issued annually, as a consequence of which plastic bags ended up as a very visually intrusive form of litter pollution. Based on data from retailers and revenue collected from the levy, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government estimates that since the introduction of the levy, the number of plastic bags issued has reduced by over 90%. The most recent survey data available from the monitoring system shows that plastic bags constitute approximately 0.25% of litter pollution nationally, compared to an estimated 5% prior to the introduction of the levy.

Future system's reports will be readily able to analyse the effect the ban on smoking in the workplace in Ireland as part of the Public Health (Tobacco) Act, 2002 (Section 47) Regulations 2003 will have on cigarette related litter in the environs of Public Houses, Shopping Centres and other Gathering Points.

# Launch of Litter Website



## Website Content

The website provides an overview of the NLPMS, and contains all relevant information, documentation and publications for local authorities. This includes:

- Monitoring Manual;
- Best Practice database of initiatives from around the country;
- Information Updates;
- System Survey Results including Annual Reports;
- Local authority Case Studies; and
- All reports generated by the LMB including Audit Reports, Progress Reports, Litter Management Plan Assessments etc.

## Online Discussion Forum

The purpose of the **Online Discussion Forum** is to allow local authorities to exchange information on all aspects of litter prevention and control, and to encourage communication between local authorities in sharing best practice initiatives. See pg. 11 for a pictorial outline of the Online Discussion.

### Procedure:

- Register and receive a password;
- Review current topics of the online discussion forum;
- Post a new message or reply to a query.

# Online Discussion Forum

The screenshot shows the Litter.ie website with a navigation menu (Home, Monitoring Manual, Best Practice, Information Updates, Contacts, Links) and a sidebar with links like Overview, Role of the LBM, and Online Discussion. The main content area is titled 'On-line Discussion Group' and features a table of forum topics. A search bar is located on the left, and contact information for TES Consulting Engineers and LGCSB is at the bottom.

**On-line Discussion Group**

Main Topic Index | Search | New user | Login | FAQ

Please register a username.

Anti-Litter Awareness Campaigns	Threads	Posts	Last post
<b>Cigarette Related Litter</b> What are you doing in relation to businesses who do not clean-up their cigarette butts from outside their premises??	0	0	New forum

Litter Management	Threads	Posts	Last post
<b>Election Posters</b> Has anyone an issue with the tags left on poles after the removal of the the election posters. Anyone have an idea of costs etc?	0	0	New forum

Website	Threads	Posts	Last post
<b>Website</b> What are your opinions on this website?	0	0	New forum

Current adjusted date is: 2004/10/05 15:48

**Contact Us** home

Modus

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**Explanation of Above:**

**Threads:** amount of replies and answers to any topic put on the website.

**Post:** amount of topics put on website by users.

## Results of Litter Management Plan Assessment

One of the key tasks of the Litter Monitoring Body has been to assess the Litter Management Plans prepared by the local authorities. There are three main reasons for this assessment exercise:

- A. To assess Litter Management Plans with respect to the core functions prescribed for such Plans under the Litter Pollution Act, 1997, and to determine how local authorities have discharged those functions;
- B. To ascertain whether or not the current Litter Management Plans act as appropriate frameworks for the anti-litter activities to be undertaken by the local authorities over the succeeding three years; and
- C. To identify best practice as regards litter management planning in this country. This will ensure that future Plans benefit from the experience gained by all of the authorities across the country.

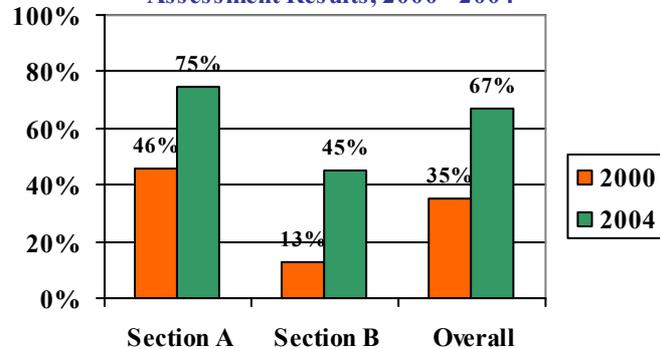
### Status of Litter Management Planning

There are 90 local authorities, each of which is required to prepare a Litter Management Plan - either alone or in conjunction with another authority. Ten authorities have chosen to cooperate in the preparation of three joint Plans.

A total of 24 plans were received and assessed by the Litter Monitoring Body. 5 authorities have reported that they have not prepared a replacement Plan since the initial assessment of Litter Management Plans in 2000, and 4 Plans have not yet been prepared. A further 51 have been requested but not received.

**Could local authorities that have not forwarded their Plans to the Litter Monitoring Body for assessment please do so as soon as possible.**

Comparison of Litter Management Plan Assessment Results, 2000 - 2004



### Results

The results of this Assessment exercise indicated that the Litter Management Plans prepared to date scored well on Part A Of the protocol (which assessed the requirements prescribed in the Litter Pollution Act, 1997). However, the Plans were less successful in satisfying the requirements of Part B (Best Practice) of the assessment protocol.

A comparison of the overall results between 2000 and 2004 is given in the graph above. (2000 results are based on 74 plans.) The graph indicates that litter management plans have improved greatly and are more compliant with the requirements of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997. Improvements in litter management planning best practice are also indicated.

The Litter Monitoring Body has returned an individual assessment report to each local authority that forwarded a Plan for assessment. In addition the National Litter Management Plan Assessment will be available on [www.litter.ie](http://www.litter.ie) in the coming week.