



PRESS RELEASE

Doolin Pier branded as “Litter Blackspot” by Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) Survey

Doolin, 13th August 2018: Throughout the day press & media outlets have reported on the findings of the recent IBAL survey on Irelands beaches, harbours and rivers. The report branded Doolin Pier as a “Litter Blackspot” and claimed that the dumping at the Pier was land-based, with the coach parking and car park areas the worst affected.

Doolin Tourism, as a co-operative of local businesses is disappointed with the findings and feel that to brand us as a “Litter Blackspot” is not truly reflective of our beautiful village.

As a community we have long been advocating the urgent & indeed long overdue need for public infrastructure in our village. Following the opening of the new pier in 2016, as well as this year’s exceptional weather, we have seen significant growth in visitor volumes using the pier to travel to the Cliffs of Moher & the Aran Islands. Clare County Council have financially benefited from this growth, with substantial earnings from both passenger harbour fees & car parking income, yet to date, have failed to implement appropriate facilities or maintenance programs. **It is now incumbent on Clare County Council to operate responsibly, to deliver on its rural development & tourism objectives and re-invest those funds in basic visitor facilities at the pier & throughout the village.**

While we acknowledge that Clare County Council have recognized the need for visitor amenities and we welcome their ongoing efforts with regards to the ‘Doolin Strategic Master Plan and Enhancement Strategy’ we are pleading with them for **immediate action**. There are several, easily implemented, low cost deliverables which could offer considerable improvements to visitor safety & enjoyment; including basic measures such as footpaths, lighting, traffic byelaws & litter management.

Doolin Tourism highlights that the rest of our village is held in high-regard & has been judged to be litter free. We highly commend the ongoing efforts of our Doolin Tidy Towns Committee & local clean-up volunteers.