

## **An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 1, 2018**

**Ballymun: 38<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Littered.**

Half of the sites surveyed in Ballymun got the top litter grade and some of the particularly good top ranking sites included Poppintree Park, Ballymun Road and the Street Level Car Park on Ballymun Road – these sites were not just good with regard to litter but also very freshly presented and maintained. The three litter blackspots included the site of the former Ballymun Towers, a short stretch of St. Margaret's Road and the Bottle Bank / Clothing Bank behind Ballymun Shopping Centre Car Park – these sites weren't just casually littered but subject to dumping. They did not become blackspots overnight.

**Street Level Car Park on Ballymun Road: Grade A.** A small street level car park, located on Ballymun Road. It was freshly presented - especially compared to the adjoining Ballymun Shopping Centre car park. The car park surface / markings / signage etc. were all in very good condition. There were some occasional weeds. A welcome feature within the car park was an area devoted to four large planter boxes.

**Bottle Bank / Clothing Bank behind Ballymun Shopping Centre Car Park: Grade D.** This facility wasn't so much a littered site but subject to dumping - at least nine black sacks and full plastic bags were discarded to the side of the bins and there were further sacks over the low wall to the rear, within Ballymun Shopping Centre Car Park. Many of the units themselves were in poor condition and some appeared to be burnt. There were also some bottles in a box on the ground in front of the units.

**Site of former Ballymun Towers: Grade D.** The area visible from Balbutcher Lane was surveyed. This is a very extensive site but the area visible from the various different former entrances had been subjected to dumping. Bags and bags of rubbish had been thrown over the railings. There were several separate incidents of dumping of other household items e.g. clothes horse, children's scooter and some evidence of burnt items.

**St. Margaret's Road: Grade D.** The stretch of road surveyed was from the junction of R108 to first right sharp turn. The bicycle / pedestrian pathway were in good condition and the grass had recently been cut. The benefit of this was lost as there was a constant stream of food related litter along the footpath. What really brought down the litter grade was area of dumping at the sharp turn right - all manner of household items were dumped e.g. household furniture and car parts etc.

**Poppintree Crescent: Grade B.** The overall presentation of this residential environment was very good with attractive paving throughout and plenty of ornamental trees and planting at the cul de sac. However, there was a very definite litter presence throughout, mostly in the parking bays and at the base of ornamental trees. There weren't heavy accumulations but the level was such that if not addressed it could become a Grade C site.

**Balbutcher Lane: Grade B.** (From Ballymun Shopping Centre up to Hollytree Terrace). An extensive stretch of road was surveyed. The area from Ballymun Shopping Centre was generally good with regard to litter and grass had recently been cut. All of the litter to be found was along the residential area. Much of this lay at the base of the trees or in the parking bays. This litter took away from an otherwise well presented environment. There was plenty of tree planting throughout.

**Poppintree Park: Grade A.** Poppintree Park is an extensive site incorporating playing fields, water feature, wooded area and a 'smoke free playground'. All was in excellent order. There was plenty of clear and clean signage at the many points of entry to the park. Seating, bins, lifebuoys etc. were all in excellent condition. The sound of the birdsong at Poppintree Park was wonderful and there was a 'Biodiversity' lesson taking place at time of survey.

**Ballymun Civic Centre and Axis Centre: Grade A.** The built environment of Ballymun Civic Centre and Axis Centre was excellent. The area to the front with seating and grass was in very good condition. Planter boxes were full of bloom. There were several 'DCC free wifi zone' notices and dog

fouling notices. Cigarette butts were pronounced under the seating areas - perhaps butt units could be installed at the end of the benches?

**Ballymun Road: Grade A.** The overall impression created along Ballymun Road was a very positive one. The paving, road surface / markings / signage were in very good condition and there was plenty of planting throughout. Ornamental trees lined the central median. There was also an array of tiered flower boxes. The area outside the Garda Station and Intreo offices was especially fresh in appearance.

**Gulliver's Retail Park: Grade A.** All aspects of the area surveyed were in excellent order. There was an absence of litter throughout and plenty of attractive planting and landscaping. Outdoor seating areas in front of the cafes were well presented.