

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

Bray: 28th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

Bray continues to perform well, if not at the level of years ago when it topped the table. Some of the very good sites surveyed included Quinnsboro Road, Killarney Approach Road and Bray Daly Dart Station – the latter has undergone some recent works and presented well, without the litter in the car park which had been a feature in previous surveys. A lovely new feature in Bray is the Riverwalk, opened late in 2017. By far the most heavily littered site was the Quinnsboro Road Car Park which was just as poor as it has been for many years. There were some positive changes noted along Upper Dargle Road (e.g. a former derelict site has been redeveloped and there was some landscaping at the entrance to Fassaroe). However, there was still some dumping over the low wall (coming in to Bray) just before Fassaroe.

Bray Recycle Centre: Grade B. The main expanse of car park was generally clear of litter but due to the fact that almost all the units were full / overflowing the sound of beer cans rolling around was obvious. A black sack had been left on the ground and items were stuffed between recycle units. A lovely feature of this facility is the Community Garden to the rear – this was lovingly tended.

Quinnsboro Road: Grade A. The general streetscape from the junction with Main Street to the small recessed shopping mall was excellent. The post office is housed in a lovely old redbrick building and looked very well. There was a virtual absence of litter. Paving and ornamental trees were in very good order.

Bray Daly DART Station – Exterior: Grade A. The planted areas to the front of the station have been completely cut back and it looks like railway sleepers are being laid out for future planting. New planter boxes were in good order. There was some welcoming visitor information notices. There was attractive paving behind the railings. The car park area was fine with regard to litter, but the car park surface was poor, with some potholes.

Bray Harbour and Environs: Grade A. The overall presentation of the harbour and immediate environs was improved since 2017. Signage was generally in good condition but one sign was heavily covered in graffiti. A mural, highlighting three significant items of interest in Bray takes the bare look off one wall. There was a virtual absence of litter.

Upper Dargle Road: Grade C+. There were some improvements along this road which for many years had been a poor site. A derelict site on the right just before entering Bray has been redeveloped and changed from commercial to residential usage. Also, the entrance area to Fassaroe has been landscaped somewhat with colourful planting. However, the grade was still poor due to the area just before the entrance to Fassaroe - it has been subject to dumping. The broken low wall allows for easy access. If this area was addressed it would make a big difference to the litter grade.

Riverwalk: Grade B+. A very new site - officially opened in November 2017. Stretches from Bray Bridge to railway line. This new area has been very attractively landscaped with pebbles underfoot and low lying planting. Any litter that was visible at this site was at the Bray Bridge end of the pathway. The remainder of the area, including the cycle path were in very good order and clear of litter. This site just missed the top litter grade.

Quinnsboro Road Car Park: Grade C. A consistently poor site with no change since last included in IBAL Survey. The perimeter area around much of the car park was in very poor condition - weeds were up to eight feet high and very heavily littered, not just litter but builders' debris. The pedestrian approach from Main Street also creates a poor impression. The paved area of the car park didn't have the same litter issues as the rest of the car park.

Killarney Approach Road: Grade A. From Boghall Road to Main Street. A fresh and clean impression is created along this road. It is very well maintained. Cycle path was in good condition. The mature trees, closer to the town, create a great impression.

Main Street: Grade B+. The footpaths were generally clear of litter. What brought down the grade from the usual Grade A status was an isolated area to the left of the church - a discarded baby buggy had coffee cups and there were piles of cardboard boxes. There were also heavy levels of cigarette butts at this area. The remainder of the main street was in good order with regard to litter.

N11/ M11 link from Donnybrook to Bray: Grade A. The overall impression created travelling from Donnybrook Church to turn off for Bray North was a positive one. Much of the grassy area central median had been cut. There were several separate incidents of graffiti - there was a virtual absence of litter throughout.