

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

Cork City Centre: 25th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed.

Half of the sites surveyed in Cork City got the top litter grade and there were very few seriously littered sites. There was an improvement along North Ring Road (moderately littered); It was also remarked that there was a noticeable improvement at Dillon's Cross – this time around it was only moderately littered; Heavily littered Redforge Road was badly let down by both the vacant Sunbeam site which was poorly maintained and harboured heavy levels of litter and the Gala petrol station; many of the city centre sites were not just top ranking with regard to litter but also very well presented and maintained e.g. Emmet Place, Tuckey Street, Patrick's Street, Oliver Plunkett Street and Robert Street – the latter presented well with lovely red brick building. It was noted that while there were some derelict sites along Dominic Street that it was still immaculate – clearly a very careful eye is kept on these sites and the street exuded local pride.

Recycle Facility at Blackpool Shopping Centre: Grade A. The overall impression created at this small facility at the back of the car park was a good one. There was a virtual absence of litter. Apart from some stickers on the individual recycle units there was no signage regarding usage.

Redforge Road: Grade C. There was no improvement along this road since last included in IBAL litter survey. What really brings down the overall impression is the vacant Sunbeam industrial site – there were heavy levels of a wide variety of litter and the area was poorly maintained. There were also some litter accumulations in the shrubs of the Gala petrol station. These two areas took away from the individual houses which were generally very good in terms of litter.

North Ring Road: Grade B. Cork's busy 'Ring Road' connecting the North to the East of the city. Some improvement was noted along this road. Much of the litter wasn't apparent when driving but is evident when walking. There were small accumulations of litter at the bus stops with one area of domestic rubbish dumping. Apart from this area it was generally clean, if rather roughly maintained.

Old Youghal Road: Grade B+. The stretch of road surveyed was from Banduff Road to North Ring Road. A mixed use road that was generally good with regard to litter. If it wasn't for the small amounts of litter located at the entrance to Mayfield Business Park and directly adjacent to Amber Petrol Station this would have been a top ranking site.

Clothing Bank at SuperValu on Old Youghal Road: Grade A. This tiny facility for clothing recycling was immaculate. The orange clothing units were fresh and clean in appearance and the overall impression created here was a positive one.

Dillon's Cross: Grade B. Huge improvements were noted in what has been very poor site with regard to litter in previous IBAL litter surveys. Small amounts of a wide variety of litter items were scattered here and there with the area on the Ballyhooly Road remarkably clean.

N20 Approach: Grade C+. One direction surveyed from McDonald's to 'Tiles R Us'. The overall presentation of the road was good with trees in full bloom and road surface in good order, generating a positive approach into Cork. However, this was somewhat marred due to the accumulations of litter found along the edge of footpath close to the grassy verge – there were heavy levels of fast-food wrappers and lower levels of a wide variety of other food related litter items and some promotional flyers. The litter was most pronounced at the vacant sites most especially from Dulux to the bus stop.

Merchant's Quay: Grade A. This site scored particularly well considered the level of activity – it is a busy public transport hub parallel to a medium sized shopping centre. The entire area was spotless. The footpath along the side of the river was very fresh in appearance and streetscape was enhanced with some ornamental trees.

St. Patrick's Street: Grade A. The overall impression along St. Patrick's Street was an excellent one in terms of both litter and overall presentation. The only litter to be seen were cigarette butts

(especially in the grills under the trees). Part of the paving was stained outside M&S. Apart from these issues it was an excellent site – the streetscape was very fresh in appearance.

Carey's Lane: Grade B. This narrow laneway is home to a Huguenot Cemetery and several restaurants and bistros. Not much effort is required for this site to get the top litter grade – it presented very well. - broken glass and cigarette butts were the main litter items. Graffiti was also present on the brick wall.

Bishop Lucey Park: Grade B. Bishop Lucey Park is an urban oasis in the centre of the city. This attractive and busy small park was moderately littered – cigarette butts, coffee cups, plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers cans and sweet papers were all present.

Tuckey Street: Grade A. There was a slightly bohemian feel to this short but colourful Cork City centre street. Well done to all local businesses here – it presented very well.

Sober Lane: Grade A. Freshly painted blue wall (Crawford College of Art and Design) and plenty of colourful hanging baskets are welcome features along this laneway. The restaurant environment along this laneway was attractively laid out.

Oliver Plunkett Street: Grade A. Very busy with afternoon shoppers and tourists alike. The street was generally clean, but there was a very definite cigarette butt presence. While the paving was fresh in appearance there were parts which were grubby, probably due to spilled liquid.

Robert Street: Grade A. The built environment was in good order and the overall impression was of a very clean street. The red brick building was very well presented and there was an absence of litter throughout.

Bowling Green Street: Grade B+. (A narrow street off St. Patrick's Street). One side of this street is redeveloped and shining new. It was generally clean but with concentration of cigarette butts next to Drawbridge Street. There were lower levels of sweet wrappers.

Emmet Place: Grade A. This is a lovely 'open space' next to two major attractions in the city, namely The Opera House and Art Gallery. It was an excellent site - clean, bright and fresh. There were just some occasional cigarette butts peppered throughout the area.

Dominick Street: Grade A. Narrow, hilly, residential street leading to Cork's Butter Market and close to Shandon Bells. The area next to the Museum is picture perfect - a superb location. This area has the potential to be a litter blackspot but due to local pride the area is immaculate. There are a number of derelict sites but all were litter free. Sign saying ' We Love Shandon, No Butts about It, Stub It & Bin It'.

Vincent's Bridge: Grade B+. A beautiful iconic pedestrian bridge in the heart of the city. This site just missed getting the top litter grade. The area immediately around the bridge was clean but there was a variety of food related items at the edge of the bridge. Fast food items included pizza box.

Magazine Road: Grade A. A residential street close to UCC, apparently occupied by students and full-time residents. This area has only a few well scattered items of litter but overall warrants a Grade A.

Glasheen Road: Grade B+. Much of Glasheen Road was quite good with regard to litter but coffee cups were a very definite feature along the road, with lower levels of sweet papers and cigarette butts.

South Link Road: Grade B. This busy road was moderately littered.

Airport Road: Grade A. A busy national road linking the city with the airport. It was clean throughout and an excellent introduction to Cork for anybody arriving by plane.

M8 / R639: Cork – Fermoy Link Road: Grade A. (Dunkettle interchange North to Junction 15 on M8 and then finally R639 into Fermoy) This hilly broad road was clean. Road works were present close to Rathcormack and here the road and verges were especially clean.