

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

Dublin – North Inner City: 39th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Seriously Littered.

Overall there was a disappointing drop in cleanliness in the North Inner City over previous surveys. The litter blackspots didn't get into this state overnight and have clearly suffered abuse and long-term neglect. Rutland Street Lower has persistently been a blackspot and the residential area of Sherrard Street Lower wasn't just casually littered but subject to dumping. Another poor residential street was Dunne Street. A short laneway off Portland Row was also Grade D status.

On a more positive note, Charleville Mall Canal Walk was much improved. There is a tie-in with the local community and the 'Adventure Project' – what a turnaround to see children using the canal for kayaking on what was previously a heavily littered site. Another example is Diamond Park, an attractively landscaped city centre park with mosaics underfoot, wooden seating and a colourful playground. Laurence O'Toole Recreation Centre is also an example of what can be achieved in a very short period of time – last year this was a very poor ranking site.

Car Park at Our Lady of Lourdes Church & Sean McDermott Street Swimming Pool Environs Grade C. The area directly in front of the swimming pool entrance presented well and was clear of litter. A colourful mural at the entrance to the pool was a lovely feature. The area to the side of the swimming pool building and adjacent to the car park had a black sack of clothing strewn about. The Pay and Display car park in the church grounds has clearly lacked a thorough cleaning – there were heavy levels of 'old' autumnal leaves on a sunny July day. As well as typical food related litter other discarded items included yoga mat, car mat and other random items.

Charleville Mall Canal Walk: Grade B. This area had regularly been a Grade D site in many previous IBAL Surveys. It was hugely improved this time around. It was noted that there is a tie-in with the local community and the 'Adventure Project' – what a turnaround to see children using the canal for kayaking. Projects like this show what can be achieved.

Royal Canal - Spencer Dock: Grade D. To the casual observer the pathway / grass area was moderately littered. Closer inspection in several separate areas revealed a completely different story - most notably at the lock where there was a carpet of litter accumulations, most especially plastic bottles/ cans / glass bottles. Also, the area under Luas bridge was subject to dumping (discarded clothing items). There was evidence of burnt items.

Spencer Dock Residential: Grade B. While there was a definite litter presence at this residential area it was certainly better than previous IBAL litter surveys. Most, but not all, of the litter was food related with some dog fouling and heavy levels of cigarette butts. Planted areas at the base of trees added a welcome splash of colour. Care needs to be taken that larger items do not build as in the past.

Marino College of Further Education: Grade B. The entrance and the area to the front of the building were spotless. The park / green area was much less littered than previous IBAL surveys. The wall mural looked very fresh. The monument dedicated to those who died in North Strand Bombing was marred by what looked like a moss type growth. There were moderate levels of litter in the perimeter low lying shrubbery – mostly plastic bottles, coffee cups and food wrappers.

Summerhill: Grade C. There were two separate construction sites along Summerhill and none of the litter was associated with same. Much of the main thoroughfare was generally quite good with regard to litter. The majority of the litter was in front of the residential area beside the HSE Healthcare centre. Also significant deposits at the residential area beside former IDA Gardiner Street - this site has now been completely redeveloped and looked very well.

North Circular Road: Grade C+. (From Dorset Street to junction with Summerhill) While the main thoroughfare was generally moderated littered there were some incidents where bags of rubbish had

been left at the base of street bins. Much of the litter was to be found in the front gardens / on stairwells of individual properties e.g. mattress/ bags of rubbish etc. Colourful planting on traffic island at junction with Sherrard Street Lower was a welcome addition.

Seville Place: Grade B. (From Laurence O'Toole Church to Five Lamps). Plenty of notices re Dog Fouling and Anti Dumping / CCTV throughout. The overall impression walking along the road was of a much cleaner environment than many previous IBAL Surveys. However, there was still a very definite litter presence mostly food related items, dog fouling and heavy levels of cigarette butts. The area under the bridge (railway) wasn't subjected to dumping.

Rutland Street Lower: Grade D. A carpet of rubbish greets anybody arriving on this residential street from Summerhill – clearly this is domestic rubbish as nappies and sanitary towels were some of the items to be seen. There has been no change along this street since previous IBAL litter survey. The school has several signs re Dog Fouling and Litter.

Laneway off Portland Row: Grade D. (Laneway signage was so old it was illegible). A very short laneway adjacent to the red brick 'St Joseph's' building. It has been subject to long-term neglect and abuse. Much of the litter was alcohol related e.g. cardboard boxes, alcohol cans and bottles. Graffiti was also very much a feature at this site.

Oriel Street Upper: Grade D+ One side of this street was characterised by dumped black sacks, heavy weed growth, several separate incidents of graffiti and a very definite litter presence along the kerb. The other side of the street (Laurence O'Toole Court housing) was much cleaner but not devoid of litter.

Buckingham Street Upper: Grade C+. There was a definite litter presence along Buckingham Street Upper but what really dragged down the litter grade was the discarded washing machine and some black sacks of rubbish. The road surface was very fresh in appearance and the paving was new along some parts of the street. The older paving was cracked and uneven.

Spencer Dock Luas Stop: Grade A. A very fresh appearance prevailed at the Luas stop and the area immediately surrounding it. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good condition. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Bring Centre - East Road Recycle Facility: Grade B. All of the units had graffiti and some of them were in much better condition than others e.g. the Orange Pieta House unit was very fresh and the grey unit was quite poor. The area to the rear of the units harboured a variety of litter and to the front and side there were other items e.g. discarded buggy and bag.

Sheriff Street Upper: Grade B. This long road stretched from Spencer Dock to East Wall Road. Over the last number of years this road has seen major redevelopments and this continues apace on what would have been deemed 'wasteland' site in previous IBAL surveys. There were long stretches of the road which were good with regard to litter but there were some isolated pockets which had accumulations e.g. at Spencer Dock bridge and behind railings further along the street.

Point Square and 3 Arena Environs: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter in this very freshly presented environment. The paving, seating, tree planting, bins etc. were all in excellent condition. Major construction was taking place in what was a large expanse of open plaza – there was no litter associated with this site. The street bins had opportunities to separate general waste and recycling.

Emerald Street: Grade C. As well as a persistent litter presence throughout the pavement and kerb of this small residential street off Seville Place, there were a couple of separate litter accumulations e.g. behind railings. Weed growth was very pronounced, especially at the end of the cul-de-sac. This street is well on its way to Grade D status if not addressed.

Diamond Park: Grade B. Signage at the park says - 'Diamond Park – Designed by the Community, Managed with the Community'. The park was very attractively landscaped and well maintained. There were plenty of wooden benches and artwork throughout the park e.g. mosaic seating and on

the ground. Some casually discarded food related items took away from what could be a top ranking site.

Site of playground and play area on Railway Street: Grade C. This facility appears to be closed with no visible access points. There were heavy accumulations of plastic and glass bottles, fast-food wrappers, cans and sweet papers.

Foley Street: Grade C+. There was lovely cobbling underfoot and relatively new pavements. Some parts of the street were very good with regard to litter e.g. in front of the office buildings. This wasn't the case with the remainder of the street. As well as a steady stream of general litter there was a very definite litter presence at a corner derelict site – this creates a very poor impression with heavy levels of litter underneath the hoarding and substantial weeds.

Sherrard Street Lower: Grade D. This street wasn't just casually littered. It was characterised by a constant stream of dumping throughout – even behind the railings of a building (Rawlton House) where lights were on (i.e. occupied and being used). As well as the domestic rubbish there was an area with heavy levels of dumping e.g. furniture, bicycle parts and all manner of items. Not only is the 'No Dumping / CCTV in Operation' signage being ignored in some instances the signage itself had been vandalised.

Laurence O'Toole Recreational Centre: Grade A. The brightly coloured railings give this community facility a very fresh appearance. The outdoor play area to the rear was very well presented and maintained. The netting over the play area doesn't allow for litter to be thrown over the railings. It was great to see this area in such great order compared to just a short time ago.

Dunne Street: Grade D. A residential street where some residents have colourful planting / baskets and roses. This didn't pertain throughout the street and there were several separate areas which weren't just littered but subject to dumping e.g. at the entrance to the old red brick warehouse and a recessed (parking) area beside flats.

St. Vincent's Boys and Girls School: Grade A. The girls school fronted on to the Canal at Charleville and the garden to the front was carefully cultivated with colourful planting. The play area at the boys school seemed in good order with regard to litter.

Park at Spencer Dock: Grade A. Part of the park was cordoned off to hold building equipment but this didn't impact in any negative way on the litter situation. The remainder of the park was well presented and maintained. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout.