

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

Dun Laoghaire: 31st out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

There were some exceptionally well presented and maintained sites in Dun Laoghaire e.g. The People's Park and East Pier – both were in excellent order with regard to presentation and litter. George's Street Lower, Bring Centre at Eden Park and DFE (Dun Laoghaire College of Further Education) were moderately littered. The two poor sites were the Car Park at Eblana Avenue and Brock's Lane – they clearly require more attention as a very casual attitude to the disposal of not just litter but other items prevailed at both.

Dun Leary / Crofton Road: Grade A. Beginning at Dun Leary Road (beside the Purty Loft) this road presented very well. Landscaped area beside the petrol station was well maintained. The road surface / signage / markings were in very good order and there was attractive visitor information notice across from the DART Station. There was a virtual absence of litter along this extensive stretch of road. Graffiti was a feature on many surfaces - bins, electric boxes, low walls, rear of road signage etc.

Brock's Lane: Grade C. New signage 'Brocks Lane' - formerly referred to in previous IBAL surveys as 'L Shaped Laneway between York Road and George's Street Lower'. The stretch of lane without double yellow lines was choked with parked cars, riddled with litter underneath. Other items to be seen included a discarded mattress, a black sack of rubbish and a pile of beer bottles.

George's Street Lower: Grade B. The overall presentation of George's Street Lower was somewhat mixed. There were definitely some newly opened premises which added some freshness to the street. However, there were still plenty of vacant / unoccupied premises with little effort made in terms of presentation. Cigarette butts and food related litter were most pronounced near the seating areas along the pedestrianised part of the street. Graffiti was also quite a feature on many different surfaces - decommissioned telephone box / large post box / vacant outlets etc..

Bring Centre at Eden Park: Grade B. A 'managed' facility - with plenty of signage indicating opening hours / items accepted / use of facility etc.- all signage was in excellent condition. Most of the main surface area of the facility was in good order with regards to litter. However, the area to the rear of many of the units harboured discarded items e.g. suitcase / baby car seat / general debris etc. A quick clean up is all it would take to make this a Grade A site.

People's Park: Grade A. An exceptional site. Deserving of Grade A+ if such a grade existed! The People's Park has regularly been a top ranking site in previous IBAL surveys but this time the overall presentation exceeded that of previous years. Paving / planting etc were in excellent condition. There was a complete absence of litter throughout – clearly it is much respected by the users and very well cared for by those responsible for the maintenance.

Dun Laoghaire College of Further Education – DFE: Grade B. The main outdoor areas including car park to the front and the area in front of the entrances were generally clear of litter. It was the persistent food related litter and plastic in the shrubbery which brought down the overall grade. Most of this litter looked like 'long lie' i.e. old and indicating lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time.

East Pier: Grade A. An exceptionally well presented environment being enjoyed by many on a sunny June morning. The top level was closed for renovations. The lower level was spotless right up to the end of the pier. The lighthouse at the end of the pier now houses Teddy's Ice Cream and some Portoloo style toilets - there was the occasional food related item in this area but overall the pier was in super condition.

York Road: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along the road from junction with Knapton and Tivoli Road.

Car Park at Eblana Avenue: Grade C. This small street level car park was in very poor condition with regard to litter and overall presentation. The one item which was in good order was the signage relating to parking -plenty of clear and clean signage relating to use of car park and payment for same

- clearly somebody is 'claiming ownership' for same. The area wasn't just casually littered but a variety of items had been discarded. Weeds all along the perimeter were several feet high, the car park was riddled with potholes and a general air of neglect prevailed throughout.

The Metals: Grade A. A section of this walkway, running from Glasthule DART Station to DLR Lexicon was surveyed. There was plenty of good signage throughout and a virtual absence of litter. There were a few incidents of graffiti, especially on the laneway doors.