

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

Galway City - Ballybane: 40th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Seriously Littered.

It was noted that within the heavily littered residential areas e.g. Castlepark and Sliabh Rua, both of which were litter blackspots, it was the communal areas which tended to harbour most of the litter - the individual properties were generally quite clean. Another feature was that low-lying shrubbery / planted areas harboured much of the litter and discarded items e.g. Ballybane Village and the perimeter of St. Brigid's Church (Grade D) – the latter was badly let down by the shrubbery areas and this took away from the pristine presentation of the grass area immediately surrounding the church. There was evidence of some maintenance at 'Ballybane Village' but it was impossible to ignore the discarded furniture.

Recycle Bank At Ballybane Shopping Centre: Grade B+. The overall presentation of this recycle facility was a good one with bins clean and in good order. However, items had been stuffed behind the units. Not much effort is required for this to get the top litter grade.

Castlepark: Grade D. An extensive residential development which had persistent and pervasive litter throughout the communal areas, with the exception of the street numbered 278 – 308. The pathways were riddled with heavy levels of all manner of food related litter.

Perimeter of St Brigid's Church: Grade D. The main grass area surrounding the church was neatly cut and was very good with regard to litter. The shrubbery around the perimeter was poorly maintained and there was a wide variety of items discarded within. It wasn't just casually littered but dumping of items e.g. crutch and other items. The perimeter of the car park was equally poor with regard to heavy levels of litter.

Fána Glas: Grade D. An air of neglect prevailed at this residential area. The 'No Dumping' sign is being completely ignored. Huge swathes of all manner of litter lined the pavements, as well as discarded bags of rubbish. Graffiti was pronounced on the green electricity box.

Sliabh Rua: Grade C. A red gas cylinder had been discarded on the public grass and this very much set the scene for public areas of this residential area. The shrubbery harboured the majority of the litter – heavy levels of sweet papers, plastic bags and plastic bottles, with lower levels of cans, coffee cups, fast-food wrappers and dog fouling.

'Ballybane Village' – Gala and small shopping centre: Grade C. There was evidence of some maintenance at this site and there were areas within the site which were litter free. However, there was a litter presence, especially at the base of the shrubbery. It is impossible to ignore the pile of discarded broken furniture.

Ballybane Library: Grade B. The built environment was in good order and the open plan areas were generally good with regard to litter. As with so many other sites surveyed in Ballybane it was the low-lying shrubbery which harboured much of the litter – all typical food related items. With a little extra care and attention this could easily be a top ranking site.

IDA Ireland Industrial Estate: Grade B. (east of Oldenway Business Park in direction of Ballybrit). The individual units within this industrial estate environment were generally good with regard to litter. It was the areas adjacent to and in front of the vacant properties which were littered – mostly food related items. Signage relating to overnight parking prohibited / CCTV.

East United Sports Ground: Grade A. This was by far one of the best sites surveyed in Ballybane. It was in excellent condition and clear of litter.

Ballybane Road: Grade A. Overall, this was a good road with grass areas neatly maintained and a virtual absence of litter throughout.