

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

Galway City Centre: 33rd out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered.

Again Galway city falls just short of the mark – a mark which most other city centres are achieving. Examples of top ranking sites included Yeats College, City Hall, Parkmore West and East Technology Park, Scoil Chaitriona and Saint Oliver Plunkett Church – these areas didn't just score well with regard to litter but were particularly well presented and maintained. Galway Train Station achieved its usual spotless status. While City Hall was attractively laid out the Recycle Facility within scored poorly due to discarded items stuffed between and behind the recycle units.

Ballybrit Crescent: Grade A. Colourful low lying planting at the signage to the entrance to the residential area of Ballybrit Crescent was very welcoming. The overall impression created here was of a well attended and cared for environment. The communal lawn was well tended.

Galway Racecourse: Grade B. The grounds of this facility visible from the road were perfectly clean and tidy with all elements in good order e.g. surface, buildings, planting etc. The front of the hedge harboured some food related litter and white plastic wrapping.

Parkmore West & East Technology Park - IDA: Grade A. An extensive area was surveyed incorporating both East and West technology parks – the areas were very attractively landscaped and exceptionally well maintained. Road surface / markings / signage, grass, shrubbery and planted areas were in very good condition. There was a complete absence of litter throughout.

Yeats College: Grade A. The built environment was very fresh in appearance and the grounds were in very good condition. Overall, this site created an excellent impression.

City Hall: Grade A. (College Road). The extensive grounds of City Hall were attractively laid out with a mix of mature trees and planter boxes. The overall impression was a very positive one. Signage, paving, car park surface etc. were in excellent condition. There was a virtual absence of litter in the area surveyed. (NB The Recycle Facility was surveyed as a separate site – see below)

Recycle Facility at City Hall: Grade C. The presentation and maintenance of this facility was in stark contrast to the lovely grounds of City Hall (see separate site). The containers themselves were clean but large numbers of filled plastic bags and non plastic shopping bags had been discarded on the ground in front of the recycle units. Rubbish had also been stuffed between and behind the units.

Bus Eireann – Exterior and Interior: Grade B. This bus station was in somewhat better shape with regard to litter than previous IBAL surveys. The inside of the station was spotless. Any litter found outside (coffee cups, chewing gum and sweet wrappers) was at the bus waiting area.

Galway Train Station: Grade A. As with many previous IBAL Surveys the train station in Galway was pristine. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good condition. The floor was so clean it was sparkling.

Eyre Square: Grade B. This city centre park and public space has been very attractively landscaped with colourful low lying planting and trees. Some casually dropped food related litter took away from an otherwise very well presented and maintained environment. Seating, sculptures, grass etc. were all in very good order.

Eyre Square Shopping Centre: Grade A. Eyre Square Shopping Centre can be accessed from a few separate entrances and each of these was very fresh in appearance. The interior

of the shopping centre was spotless throughout. The overall impression was of a very freshly presented and maintained environment.

Shop Street: Grade B. There overall impression along Shop Street was of a littered street – heavy levels of cigarette butts, with lower levels of sweet papers, plastic bottles and fast-food wrappers. The individual properties were generally very well presented and maintained. Much of the street is pedestrianized with attractive paving.

White Strand Road: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along this residential road. Individual gardens appeared to be in good order. Some of the double yellow lines were quite faded and there was weed growth.

The Promenade: Grade B. A number of years ago there were heavy levels of dog fouling along the promenade – not so this time around and signage and facilities to support the disposal of same 'Love Your Dog, Respect Your City – Bag It, Bin It' signage. The overall impression was of an attractively presented environment but it was somewhat marred by a variety of litter.

Prom Car Park (Salthill Road Upper): Grade A. A hugely busy car park on the day of survey. It presented well. This car park got the top litter grade, but only just.

Dyke Road: Grade B. Area surveyed was from Dyke Road Car Park (at Black Box Theatre) to bridge underpass. The planting was more 'naturally' presented rather than manicured – such an environment can sometimes lead to litter lurking in the growth. The road was moderately littered, with a wide variety of litter present, not just food related but also some plastic ties on poles.

N6 Approach: Grade B. (from traffic lights at Clayton Hotel to lights at end of N6 close by Monivea Park) The overall impression created travelling along this road was of a moderately littered environment. This took away from an otherwise well maintained route.

Approach from Skerrit Roundabout to lights at R338 (Oranmore junction): Grade B. There was a definite litter presence along this route, mostly in the roadside grass. A variety of food related items were present.

Merlin Park Hospital: Grade B. The grounds of the hospital were generally well presented and maintained and clear of litter. However, there was a disused hut close to the entrance which has been neglected and the area immediately surrounding it was littered – broken glass, cans, splattered paint. If this area is not addressed it could quickly deteriorate further. It was also noted that there was no signage at the main entrance to the hospital.

Galwegians RFC: Grade B. The entrance to Galwegians RFC creates a poor impression with broken street cone and untidy grass area. The area immediately within the grounds had heavy weed growth and poor surface. The area of the grounds visible from the road looked poorly maintained and there was a definite litter presence – the level was such that it was verging on becoming a seriously littered site.

Renmore Sports / Recreation Grounds: Grade C. The large grounds of this facility were attractively presented and maintained, with plenty of mature planting and extensive green areas. A careless attitude to litter has prevailed as the site was let down by heavy levels of wide variety of food related litter on the large grass area. It looked like the remnants of picnics.

Recycle Bank at Kingfisher Club: Grade B. The presentation of this recycle bank was good with the bins fresh in appearance and the ground in front of the units mostly clear of litter. Some bags of clothing had been left for collection – despite notices requesting users not to do so. If not addressed this site could quickly slide to a Grade C status.

Scouts Den – Renmore: Grade A. The overall presentation of this site was fine with the building fresh in appearance. There was pronounced weed growth along one wall.

ScoilChaitriona: Grade A. Scoil Chaitriona scored very well. There was a complete absence of litter at this site. The grounds were well presented and maintained, with some prefabs looking freshly painted. Butterfly and floral motifs and low-lying plants looked well. The flying flags were tattered.

Saint Oliver Plunkett Church – Renmore: Grade A. A pristine site. All aspects of the church grounds were in excellent condition and there was a complete absence of litter throughout.

Recycle Facility at Westside Enterprise Park: Grade B. The overall presentation of the units was good but it was let down by abandoned mattress, bicycle and boxes left beside the otherwise very clean and tidy bank. The containers were all clean and fresh looking and only a couple of small items of litter and a few weeds in one corner.

N18 – M18 – Galway to Ennis Link Road: Grade B. The overall presentation of this route was generally a good one. The main items of litter to be found were coffee cups, plastic bottles, sweet papers and fast-food wrappers.