

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

Limerick City Centre: 17th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

A very good result for Limerick City with well over half of the sites surveyed getting the top litter grade. Particularly good sites included Perry Square, the People's Park, Shannonbridge Roundabout and Environs, and Hunt Museum – the environs of the latter was exceptionally well presented and maintained. Many of the riverside environments were also in very good order with regard to litter and general presentation e.g. Harvey's Quay, George's Quay and Charlotte's Quay. With regard to streetscape and general presentation the following are worth a mention: Thomas Street, Bank Place and the Crescent. Another top ranking site in Limerick City which deserves a special mention was Arthur's Quay Park – for many years in previous IBAL surveys this site was seriously littered – not so this time around and hopefully this new litter status can be maintained. It was noted that the pavements in Limerick City were not as besmirched with chewing gum as previously – it would seem that some gum removal / cleaning has taken place.

Recycle Facility at Honan's Quay: Grade B+. The overall impression of this recycle facility was somewhat let down by litter trapped behind the bins. The recycle bins themselves were somewhat grubby.

George's Quay: Grade A. This was a very attractively presented riverside environment, where there plenty of opportunities for outdoor eating. The paving was pristine and the hanging baskets added plenty of colour. The only litter items were cigarette butts – apart from these there was a complete absence of litter.

Steamboat Quay: Grade B. The decking and attractively paved area of this riverwalk were in good order and generally clear of litter. What brought down the litter grade was the presence of sweet wrappers and loose litter trapped in the grills at the base of the trees. Other litter items included dog fouling and cigarette butts.

Dock Road: Grade B+. Much of Dock Road was in good order with regard to litter. However, there was a small litter presence on the pavement on the left hand side as you approach Shannon Bridge Roundabout. As well as some food related litter, there were some discarded clothing items.

Hunt Museum: Grade A. The entrance, grounds and immediate environs of the Hunt Museum were in excellent order. Not only was there a complete absence of litter throughout, the overall environment was exceptionally well presented and maintained. The planting, paving, railings, etc. were in very good condition.

Charlotte's Quay: Grade A. A very positive impression was created travelling along this route. It was fresh, the road surface, signage and markings were in good order and there was also some colourful low-lying planting.

Bank Place: Grade A. A welcoming impression is created at this public space. It was well presented, with area for seating. Grass area and floral displays were in good order – there was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Patrick's Street: Grade B+. There was a light scattering of sweet wrappers, cigarette butts and some chewing gum along this street. Much of the litter was along the kerb, beside parked cars. Not much effort is required for this site to get the top litter grade.

Thomas Street: Grade A. The wide paving and ornamental trees create a great sense of space along this shopping street. The paving, street bins, bicycle parking, trees etc. were all in very good condition and the street scored well with regard to litter.

Foxe Bow: Grade A. This short and narrow laneway / alleyway was generally very tidy. Most of the road surface was in very good order, creating a clean and fresh impression.

O'Connell Street: Grade B+. A long stretch of street was surveyed and there were plenty of litter bins throughout – some of the bins had dog fouling notices - 'Any Bin, Any Bag – Stop Limerick Dog Fouling'. The paving was quite stained and grubby in places and along other parts of the street the paving was quite old and uneven. There was a very definite cigarette butt and chewing gum presence throughout.

Cornmarket: Grade B+. Much of the area was clear of litter but cigarette butts were pronounced close to the fast-food outlets and bars. There were lower levels of chewing gum and some dog fouling. There didn't appear to be any butt units in the area surveyed.

Little Ellen Street: Grade B+. Greasy and stained pavements, combined with heavy levels of cigarette butts and chewing gum bring down the litter grade at this site. A large black street bin was quite grubby.

Henry Street: Grade B+. Henry Street presented well and just missed getting the top litter grade. Chewing gum was the most obvious litter with lower levels of cigarette butts and sweet wrappers.

The Crescent: Grade A. The built environment, paving, fountain, floral displays and bins were in very good order at The Crescent. The overall impression created here was an excellent one. There was an absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

Parnell Street: Grade A. A clean and tidy street with no major litter issues to report. Care needs to be taken to ensure that there isn't a build up of cigarette butts and chewing gum, especially close to the traffic lights, outside pubs and at bus stop area.

Arthur's Quay Park: Grade A. When first included in the IBAL litter survey a number of years ago, Arthur's Quay Park was a seriously littered site – not so this time around. The signage at the entrance was in poor condition but the remainder of the park was in good order e.g. seating, bins, grass etc.. Hopefully this turn around in the presentation of Arthur's Quay Park can be sustained.

M7 from Castletroy Exit to Ballysimon Exit: Grade B+. On the whole this route was in a reasonable order but it was let down by fresh sporadic litter on both sides of the road – sweet papers, coffee cups, plastic bottles and cans were all in evidence. This litter took away from an otherwise very freshly presented route with road surface, markings and signage in very good order.

Con Colbert Train Station: Grade B+. The large expanse of paving to the front of the station continues to look very well and fresh in appearance. The overall impression was a positive one with regard to litter but it was let down primarily by coffee cups and cigarette butts.

Harvey's Quay: Grade A. The riverside environment of Harvey's Quay presented very well, creating a very positive impression. The decking, paving, railings and planted areas were in very good order and there was an absence of litter. As a riverside environment it was not surprising to find some bird fouling.

William Street: Grade B+. Much of William Street was in good order. Any items of food related litter were to be found on the kerbs, at the parking area. Cigarette butts were pronounced at the base of the ornamental trees. While still in evidence, there did appear to be some evidence of gum cleaning.

People's Park: Grade A. The People's Park was immaculate, as with many previous IBAL litter surveys. Clearly this is a very well respected and cared for environment. It was spotless throughout. Colourful planting was well maintained.

Shannonbridge Roundabout and Environs: Grade A. Road surface / signage / markings / paving and extensive planting all contribute to the excellent impression created at Shannonbridge Roundabout and surrounding area - all very welcoming to those arriving in to Limerick City.

Perry Square: Grade A. The environment of Perry Square has been carefully preserved and was surrounded by plenty of mature planting. It was very clean and tidy with regard to litter.

Cruises Street: Grade B+. Cigarette butts were pronounced, both at the base of the trees and stuck between the cracks in the red brick paving. There were lower levels of chewing gum and other loose litter.