

An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 2, 2018

Ballymun: Overall 2018 result – 36th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Littered.

There was some improvement in Ballymun this time round – it is striking that the good sites were very good and the poor sites were very poor. Some of the particularly good top ranking sites included Poppintree Park, Ballymun Road, Ballymun Youth Project and The Rediscovery Centre at Pump House – the latter was exceptionally well presented and maintained. The poor sites have scored poorly in previous IBAL Surveys – site of former Ballymun Towers and Recycle Facility at Ballymun Shopping Centre. There was evidence of burnt items and dumping at both of these sites.

Balbutcher Way: Grade B. The large grass area to the front of the housing was freshly presented with clear and clean road signage and a few small flower beds. The area was mixed with regard to litter – some parts were definitely cleaner than others. The most prevalent litter was alcohol and fast-food wrappers with lower levels of coffee cups, plastic bottles and glass bottles. Care needs to be taken to ensure that this doesn't become a seriously littered site.

Ballymun Road / Main Street: Grade A. The built environment was in good order with some ornamental trees and large planter boxes breaking up the long and wide stretch of road and pavement. The road was excellent with regard to litter. There were plenty of dog fouling notices throughout.

Rediscovery Centre at Pump House: Grade A. All aspects of the area surveyed were exceptionally clean in appearance – car park surface, signage and markings were very fresh and planted areas were suitably tended. There was a complete absence of litter throughout. An adjoining site over the fence was littered so hopefully this doesn't blow in to the grounds of the Rediscovery Centre.

Ballymun Youth Project: Grade A. This site scored well with regard to litter overall. The installation of cigarette butt units at the entrance could help prevent a build-up of butts.

St. Margaret's Road: Grade B. (from R108 to IKEA) The overall impression created along this road was generally a good one with regard to presentation and overall appearance. A corner site at the sharp bend had some debris but nothing like the level of dumping in IBAL Survey 1, 2018. Road surface, pavement and markings were excellent.

R018 from Junction with St. Margaret's Road to Ballymun Road: Grade B. To the passing car, the litter is not immediately apparent. However, there was a very definite litter presence along some stretches of the road. It was most pronounced in the direction from Ballymun town centre to St. Margaret's Road. The main litter items were cans, fast-food wrappers and plastic bottles, with lower levels of glass bottles, coffee cups and plastic ties on poles. Much of this litter was on the grassy area.

Holy Spirit Girls and Boys National School: Grade A. All appeared in good order at this site. There was a faded notice outside the school 'No Chewing Gum Allowed on these Premises'. The area outside the school grounds was clear of litter.

Poppintree Park: Grade A. The high standards of previous IBAL Litter surveys have been maintained – it scored very well with regard to overall presentation and litter. The 'Green Flag Award Winner 2018/2019' sign was featured at one of the entrances to Poppintree Park. A sign at the playground 'This is a smoke-free playground' was displayed.

Recycle Facility – Ballymun Shopping Centre: Grade D. This wasn't just a littered site – it was subject to dumping. As well as piles of black sacks there were some electric cooker hobs and other discarded plastic bags. There was evidence of burning at one of the bottle units. Behind the units there was some builders' rubble.

Site of former Ballymun Towers: Grade D. The area visible through the railings along Balbutcher Lane was surveyed. There was evidence of burnt items, along with discarded items including TV / bicycle parts / scooter and accumulations of a variety of food related litter e.g. plastic bottles, sweet papers, cans, fast-food wrappers and plastic bottles. Large swathes of the shrubbery were covered in litter.