

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

Galway City Centre: Overall 2018 result: 16th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

An excellent showing for a city which is an important part of our national tourist product and named as among the best to visit by National Geographic Traveler. 73% of sites surveyed got the top litter grade and a couple deserve a special mention, not least because they were much improved on previous IBAL litter surveys – the Recycle Facility at City Hall was in much better shape with regard to overall presentation and litter / dumping; the Library at Westside was also a much improved site. Other top ranking sites include Eyre Square, Tirellan Heights National School, residential areas of Castlawn Heights and Tirellan Heights; IDA Galway was also an exceptionally good site in terms of presentation, maintenance and lack of litter.

Tirellan Heights National School – Scoil san Phroinsias: Grade A. There was a complete absence of litter in the visible area of the grounds and the area to the front and sides of the school grounds.

Cluain Fáda: Grade B+. This residential area just missed getting the top litter grade. Sweet papers, fast-food wrappers, plastic bags and cigarette butts took away from an otherwise well presented environment. Care needs to be taken at the boarded up properties that they don't become a magnet for litter.

Lús Leana: Grade A. The impression created at this residential area was a very positive one. The individual gardens and small communal areas were in good order and there was virtually no litter in sight.

Tirellan Heights: Grade A. This large residential area with many interconnecting roads looked fresh and welcoming. All elements were in very good condition and it presented well with regard to litter.

Castlawn Heights: Grade A. The individual gardens and communal areas were well attended at this residential area. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order.

Shopping Centre near Castlawn Heights: Grade C. The overall presentation of this shopping environment was a poor one with many of the individual premises in need of upkeep. There was a very wide variety of litter throughout the area surveyed.

Sports Ground at Siobhan McKenna Road: Grade A. This facility was excellent with regard to litter. Clearly it is a very well respected and maintained environment.

R336 Thomas Hynes Approach Road: Grade A. The presentation of this route in terms of verges and grass on either side of the road was excellent. There was no visible litter throughout the area surveyed.

IDA Galway: Grade A. A pristine site. Every single element and each individual enterprise was in excellent order. The grounds have been very attractively laid out and all the open common areas were very well maintained.

Clifden Approach Road: Grade A. (from lights at IDA to Glenlo Abbey Hotel) This road was in very good condition and there was virtually no visible litter.

NUIG Sports Centre Car Park: Grade A. A clean and tidy car park environment – all was in good order with regard to litter.

NUIG Sports Campus: Grade A. The overall presentation and maintenance of this facility was very good – it was clean and tidy throughout.

Recycle Facility at City Hall: Grade A. A much improved site compared to IBAL Survey 1, 2018 when it was in a poor state. The grounds are attractively laid out and well cared for. There was a complete absence of litter at this recycle facility.

Eyre Square: Grade A. All elements of this large green city centre environment were in very good condition. The overall impression was of a well tended area.

Williamsgate Street: Grade A. This busy city centre, partly pedestrianised, shopping street was in very good order.

Sports Facility / Children's Playground at Westside Shopping Centre: Grade A. This area presented well and appeared well maintained.

Recycle Facility opposite Westside Shopping Centre: Grade B+. The overall impression at this recycle facility was a good one but it missed getting the top litter grade due to occasional litter items and a box with some items within.

Westside Shopping Centre Car Park: Grade B. There was a litter presence at this small car parking facility – sweet papers, cans, fast-food wrappers, plastic bottles and coffee cups were all present as well as chewing gum and cigarette butts.

Westside Shopping Centre: Grade A. A very fresh shopping centre environment, much of it seemingly freshly painted. The paving and planting were in very good condition and it was very good with regard to litter.

Library at Westside: Grade A. There was no litter issue at this amenity – it presented much better than when last surveyed for IBAL. All elements within the area surveyed were in very good order.

Westside Resource Centre: Grade A. Many separate organisations operate from here and share an open space – all appeared in good order with regard to presentation and maintenance of same and there were no litter issues to report.

Túsla Child and Family Centre: Grade A. Bright artwork to the fore and side of this building added some colour and cheer. The small garden to the fore was very well cared for. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

Community Centre at Westside: Grade A. There were no litter issues at this public amenity.

Boxing Club: Grade B+. There was a variety of food related litter and some discarded fish at this site.

St Patrick's Church: Grade B+. This site just missed getting the top litter grade. The church environment was well presented and cared for but litter on the grass and in the flower beds brought down the litter grade.

N18 / M18 Ennis – Galway Connecting Road: Grade B+. Much of this busy route was good with regard to overall presentation and maintenance. There was a short stretch outside Gort where there was some noticeable litter.