

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

Limerick City Centre: Overall 2018 result: 17th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

Limerick City has scored well again and has seen a great improvement from the early days of IBAL litter surveys. Top ranking sites included Bishop's Quay (excellent with regard to presentation and litter), Little Catherine Street, Thomas Street, Charlotte Quay, Limerick One Shopping Centre and Arthur's Quay Park, to name but a few. Shannonbridge Roundabout and Environs was a very freshly presented environment but care needs to be taken with cigarette butts as they could bring down the litter grade if not addressed. It was noted that within many of the city centre sites, especially the streets, chewing gum was quite pronounced. There were three poor sites in Limerick City - Ellen Street, Robert Street and Windmill Street.

Chapel Street: Grade B+. Chapel Street just missed getting the top litter grade. Heavy levels of cigarette butts and chewing gum, with lower levels of sweet papers took away from an otherwise well presented shopping street.

Dock Road: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along this road which passes through a mix of commercial and apartment developments.

Recycle Bank, Dock Road: Grade B+. There was plenty of clear and clean signage relating to the use of this recycle bank. The recycle units were freshly presented but there was a small litter presence to the front and between the units e.g. cardboard boxes.

Ellen Street: Grade C. There were heavy levels of a wide variety of litter trapped behind a fence, on top of a low wall. Chewing gum was widespread throughout the paving, quite a blight on the overall impression created along this street. There was also a series of boarded up properties along Ellen Street.

Henry Street: Grade A. There were no major litter issues along Henry Street, just the widespread chewing gum seen throughout many city centre streets. Some of the shop fronts were well presented creating a positive impression.

Hunt Museum: Grade B+. This site just missed getting its usual top ranking status. The overall presentation of this environment was excellent with cobbled paving, seating, sculptures, grass area, shrubbery etc. in very good condition. One of the litter bins was three quarters full and semi open – potentially causing litter to spill out on to the cobbles.

Kilmurry Roundabout to Parkway Roundabout: Grade A. This road to the city creates a clean and tidy first impression of Limerick. Road surface, markings and signage were in good order. The road was very well maintained.

Lower Mallow Street: Grade B+. Some of the premises along this street presented very well, a mix of old red brick and some more modern properties. Most of the litter items (sweet papers, cans, plastic bottles and coffee cups) were found in the basements of the terraced houses, one of which was in poor condition.

O'Connell Street: Grade B+. Despite plenty of litter bins with gum disposal units, gum was still very pronounced along O'Connell Street, along with cigarette butts. There were other loose litter items, all food related.

Robert Street: Grade C. There were accumulations of litter (mostly plastic bottles, glass bottles and cans) behind black railings as well as coffee cups and fast-food items on the street. The overall impression created here was of a littered environment.

Little Catherine Street: Grade A. This was an excellent street in terms of paving and streetscape. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Patrick Street: Grade A. Overall, a clean and tidy impression was created along Patrick Street – there was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

M7 from Limerick Ring Road to Castletroy: Grade A. The road surface, markings and signage were excellent and grass was well maintained. There were occasional food related litter items on the passengers side of the road.

Recycle Bank at Liddy Street: Grade A. There were no major litter issues at this small on-street facility but the recycle units were very grubby and very much in need of cleaning.

Riverside Walk: Grade A. This was an excellent site with regard to litter. There was attractive signage indicating 'Riverwalk' and area was well maintained.

Windmill Street: Grade C. There was a constant stream of food and alcohol related litter along the stairwell of Windmill Street. The remainder of the street was also littered, but not as heavily. Weed growth was pronounced at the base of the buildings.

Arthur's Quay Park: Grade A. In the early days of IBAL litter surveys Arthur's Quay Park was regularly a littered site – it was a top ranking site in IBAL Survey 1, 2018 and maintained this status for this time around. Some of the signage had graffiti and the metal seating could easily be freshened up with a lick of paint.

Thomas Street: Grade A. This pedestrianised shopping street was excellent in terms of presentation – paving was very fresh (remarkably gum free compared to most of shopping streets in Limerick) in appearance and area was further enhanced with ornamental trees, seating and silver bollards. It was a top ranking site throughout.

Ballysimon Approach Road: Grade B+. Some parts of this road were excellent with regard to litter and others there was a definite presence with a wide variety of litter.

Bank Place: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter at this freshly presented city centre environment. Seating and bins were in very good condition.

Arthur's Quay: Grade A.. Much of this mixed use city area was good with regard to litter but cigarette butts and chewing gum were noticeable.

Charlotte Quay: Grade A. A good impression was created along this street and riverside environment. Paving and railings by the river were in good order and the area presented well with regard to litter.

Shannonbridge Roundabout& Environs: Grade A. This is an exceptionally freshly presented environment. It got the top litter grade, but only just – cigarette butts were very pronounced at Bellisimo Beauty.

Limerick One Shopping Centre: Grade A. The larger car park presented very freshly with road surface, markings, paving, bollards and bins in very good order. Chewing gum was obvious at the base of litter bins and close to trolley bays.

Bishop's Quay: Grade A. A very fresh impression was created at this riverside environment – paving, seating, attractive landscaping, memorial dedicated to merchant seamen who lost their life in the course of duty, railings and bicycle parking were in very good order and the area presented well with regard to litter.