

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

**North Inner City Dublin: Over 2018 result – 40<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Seriously Littered.**

A modest improvement over the last survey but it is disappointing that no substantial progress has been evident in the area in recent years. Some of the top ranking sites included James Joyce Street, Marino College of Further Education and Memorial Garden, Diamond Park, Sheriff Street Park, to name but a few. The latter has been further enhanced with wooden play area. The poor ranking sites didn't get to this state over night and many of the following were poor in previous IBAL Surveys e.g. Dunne Street, Sherrard Street Lower and Oriel Street weren't just littered but suffered from dumping, on a large scale – piles of black sacks and plastic bags of rubbish. Marginal improvement at Rutland Street Lower from a Grade D to a Grade C – this is coming from a very low base.

As a general observation – some murals on hoarding (e.g. at Sean MacDermott Street and Poplar Row) add a sense of colour and provide artists with opportunity to be creative. Also, the provision of small planter boxes in front of houses along Seville Place and Emerald Street – PACE Social Enterprise is a welcome addition in North Inner City Dublin. A huge amount of development has taken place over a few short years – these areas generally give a great lift to the immediate environment but can also highlight the areas along the same street which haven't experienced such development e.g. Summerhill and Sheriff Street Upper.

**Oriel Street: Grade D.** A very large pile of black bags and black sacks had been discarded, on the right hand side approaching from Seville Place. The contents of the bags were strewn about the street and pavement thanks to several birds. The remainder of the street had a persistent litter presence, not just typical food related litter but children's toys.

**Summerhill: Grade C.** For a number of years large sections of Summerhill were boarded up while building was taking place at three separate sites. These are now complete resulting in a far fresher looking environment at these developments e.g. in front of Beckett House (close to Gardiner Street) and the Summerhill Primary Care Centre. The main stretch of road was generally good with regard to litter but there was a very obvious presence on the footpath in front of the residential area of Summerhill Court and closer to the junction with North Circular Road – this stretch of the street presented poorly. Plastic bags and black sacks of rubbish had been discarded. Dog fouling was also pronounced, despite plenty of notices re same.

**Marino College of Further Education and Memorial Garden: Grade A.** There was a virtual absence of litter at both the Memorial Garden and main entrance to Marino College. The mural in the Memorial Garden remains fresh in appearance.

**Poplar Row: Grade B.** There was an obvious litter presence along this road – mostly casually dropped food related litter e.g. fast-food wrappers, plastic bottles, cans and coffee cups. There were a couple of humorous murals e.g. hoarding of building site and a large mural at the pub on a corner site on Poplar Row. One electricity box had been painted and it was interesting to note that the box directly beside it had been subjected to graffiti.

**Disused Play Area on Railway Street: Grade D.** This site wasn't just littered but subjected to vandalism – evidence of burnt materials in several separate areas within the fenced area. As well as piles of litter there were some household items e.g. clothes horse, pieces of wood and clothing, especially at a corner site.

**James Joyce Street: Grade A.** This was an excellent site with regard to litter and overall presentation. At the junction of Sean MacDermott Street there were some substantial planter boxes and a colourful mural on the hoarding of building site. The street was very fresh in appearance throughout with road and paving surface in excellent condition.

**Buckingham Street, Lower: Grade B.** There was a definite sense of pride along this street with pictorial reference to Bram Stoker who lived along Buckingham Street and Belvedere Youth Club

(celebrating 100 years) with some colourful planting and mural. The Fire Station Artist Studio is a lovely building and it presented well. Despite the great pride along Buckingham Street Lower, it was let down by casual food related litter and discarded metal objects.

**Diamond Park: Grade A.** All aspects of this park were in very good condition – wooden seating, colourful playground, tree planting, mosaic seating / mosaics underfoot etc.. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the park.

**St. Laurence O’Toole Recreation Centre: Grade A.** The brightly coloured railings create a very fresh and welcoming impression at this facility. The footpath outside and pathway / play area within were clear of litter – the netting over the play area certainly precludes litter getting thrown over the railings.

**Sheriff Street Park: Grade A.** Sheriff Street Park was exceptionally good with regard to litter. It has been further enhanced by some wooden play equipment, separate to the playground. The whole area was very well maintained and respected by the users. Signage and playground / playing pitches etc were in excellent condition.

**Dunne Street: Grade D.** There was no change to the Grade D status from IBAL Survey 1, 2018 – the exact same areas were subject to not just litter but dumping – recessed parking area and in front of old ‘warehouse’ type building. Clothing, household items and black sacks were some of the items seen here and graffiti was also a feature. There were several notices indicating CCTV due to Dumping and Anti Social Behaviour.

**North Circular Road: Grade C.** (from junction with Summerhill to junction with Sherrard Street Lower) As well as a very definite litter presence along the street and particularly at the steps of some houses there were some plastic bags and black sacks of rubbish. Plastic bottles, coffee cups and plastic bags were the most prevalent types of loose litter.

**Sherrard Street Lower: Grade D.** The issue along Sherrard Street Lower wasn’t just casual litter as dumping, not just one incident but several separate incidents. This is despite plenty of notices indicating CCTV due to Dumping and Anti Social Behaviour. Rawlton House had a large pile of discarded items, right beside some parked cars. The footpath had another couple of area subject to dumping.

**Charleville Mall Canal Walk: Grade B.** (canal walk from Charleville Mall to Croke Park). Big clean ups were done during the summer and the canal was used by children through the ‘Adventure Project’. This is a real success story showing how a tie-in with the local community can reap such great results. The canal would have got the top litter grade if it wasn’t for the alcohol related litter near the bridge at Summerhill Parade. Graffiti was also a feature. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout the remaining area of the canal and the pathways were in good condition.

**Rutland Street Lower: Grade C.** There was a marginal improvement from the regular Grade D status at Rutland Street Lower. The stretch of road outside the school and closer to Sean MacDermott Street was much cleaner than many previous IBAL Surveys. The remainder of the footpath was covered in large levels of loose litter, with the litter most pronounced towards the junction with Summerhill. As well as loose litter there were some dumped bags.

**Short Cul de Sac off Portland Row: Grade C.** (again the street signage remains illegible) Some of the items to be found along this very short cul de sac included discarded clothing, cardboard boxes and other miscellaneous items.

**Royal Canal, Spencer Dock: Grade C+.** On first impression this area looked quite good - the main area of water and grass / pathways were generally lightly littered with some loose items. Closer to the LUAS bridge was a different story – under the bridge and immediate vicinity of same had heavy accumulations of litter and other items.. The steps also harboured noticeable food related litter.

**Clothing & Bottle Bank at East Road: Grade C.** It wasn’t so much that this was littered but larger items had been abandoned. Some of the items to be seen at this facility included three large

televisions, broken crockery, a children's toy and black sack. The orange clothing unit was very fresh and clean. This was in contrast to the bottle units which were very old, paint peeling and graffiti.

**Car Park at Our Lady of Lourdes, Sean MacDermott Street: Grade B.** There was a noticeable improvement on previous IBAL survey, though there was still a definite litter presence (mostly loose items e.g. plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers, sweet papers etc). Care needs to be taken that litter levels don't creep up as was the case in the past. The neighbouring Sean MacDermott Swimming Pool and immediate area were excellent with regard to litter and presentation.

**Irvine Terrace & Abercorn Road: Grade B.** Irvine Terrace presented well with a clear sense of pride among the residents. A colourful mural on one wall added a sense of freshness and there were flower boxes / planting and seating throughout. Abercorn Road leads directly from Irvine Terrace and here the impression was of a definite litter presence. Much of the litter along Abercorn Road was alcohol related (alcohol bottles and cans) as well as food related litter under the parked cars. There wasn't the same level of care at the houses along Abercorn Road.

**Sheriff Street Upper: Grade C+.** Sheriff Street Upper is a long stretch of road with some parts in much better condition than other parts with regard to presentation and litter. The stretch which was recently resurfaced / repaved presented well. However, there were definite litter accumulations in several separate areas. A welcome feature at the Guild Street end is the large planter box on the bridge. Across from the bridge there were accumulations of food related in front of the 'Spencer Dock' plaque, behind the railings. There were also accumulations behind the bus stop 6251, in front of some building sites and North Wall Freight Depot.

**Point Square and & Three Arena: Grade A.** An excellent environment. The brick paving and ornamental trees present very well and there was a virtual absence of litter throughout. The overall impression was of a very fresh and well maintained environment. The stylish bins provide opportunity for regular litter and recycling.

**Spencer Dock LUAS Stop: Grade A.** A freshly presented environment with a virtual absence of litter. The area immediately surrounding the Luas stop was well maintained.

**Emerald Street: Grade C+.** There was a marginal improvement at Emerald Street but it still has some way to go. A nice addition to Emerald Street and some of the surrounding residential areas are the small planter boxes in front of each house. As well as loose litter items along the street there was an area behind a barrier which harboured discarded items including a blue crate and a pile of clothes hangers.

**Seville Place: Grade C.** Seville Place is another long stretch of road and some parts were in much better condition than others with regard to litter and general presentation. The lower stretch of the road was generally quite good and further enhanced by small planter boxes in front of each house. The middle stretch of the road was definitely littered with the area under the bridge subject to burning of piles of cans. Further up the road towards the Five Lamps was not just littered but subject to dumping.