

AnTaisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 1, 2019

Cork City Centre: 19th out of 40 Towns / Cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

Another great result for our second largest city, with only two heavily littered sites, at Highfield Avenue and Lee Car Park. Some sites deserve special mention e.g. Fitzgerald Park (it was exceptionally well presented and maintained with a complete absence of litter throughout); The Lough was in very good order; UCC maintains the high ranking of previous surveys (as is fitting for a Green Campus Flag site); many of the city centre streets were attractively paved and this helped create a fresh impression. Top ranking city centre streets included Grand Parade, St. Patrick's Street, Parnell Place, Corn Market Street and Ship Street.

N40 Approach from Tunnel to Junction 6: Grade A. (Kinsale Road junction) The overall impression created travelling along this route was a good one, creating a positive first impression of Cork City – this high standard was maintained for almost three quarters of the sites surveyed.

Dunkettle Interchange Environs: Grade A. A very well maintained environment with a virtual absence of litter.

Black Ash Park and Ride: Grade A. This functional facility was very good with regard to litter. Maintenance of shrubs / weeds was not great but they didn't harbour any litter.

Anglesea Street: Grade A. Some of the buildings along Anglesea Street were very colourful and Crawford & Co is a welcome addition in terms of the overall presentation of the environment. Other buildings were less well presented but there were no litter issues associated with them.

Evergreen Road: Grade A. There were some brightly painted houses along this residential road. The wide grey paving was cracked and uneven. There was a virtual absence of litter along Evergreen Road.

St. Finbarr's Street: Grade A. A narrow residential street, with even narrower footpath – anybody with a buggy / wheelchair would be unable to pass on the footpath due to the domestic bins outside houses. St. Finbarr's Street was very good with regard to litter and very much deserving of the top litter grade.

Mount Sion Road: Grade B. There was a scattering of a variety of food related (e.g. plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers, cans and sweet papers) litter, in pockets, along this residential road. One house was under-going renovations but there was no litter directly associated with this.

The Lough: Grade A. This waterside feature was in great condition and presented very well with abundant fish and duck life. Apart from one isolated incident this was an excellent site with regard to litter. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order e.g. grass, signage, paving, seating and bins.

Bandon Road: Grade B. A mix of residential and different types of businesses line this road. There was a variety of scattered food related litter with heavy concentrations of cigarette butts outside the bars. A two storey, end of terrace, house presented very poorly- paint has peeled away. A fresh addition to the street is the bicycle parking.

UCC: Grade A. UCC was an excellent site – fitting for a university awarded a Green Campus Flag. The overall presentation was very good and grounds were very well maintained. It was one of the few sites to have the facility for the disposal of chewing gum.

Highfield Avenue: Grade C. The litter levels were very high along this residential road. The heaviest levels were coffee cups, cans, fast-food wrappers and sweet papers with lower levels of plastic bottles, dog fouling and cigarette butts. This is not the first time that residential roads close to UCC have scored very poorly in IBAL litter surveys.

Victoria Cross: Grade B+. As an approach to the city this road doesn't create a great first impression, especially with a terrace of boarded up houses and some obvious graffiti. There was some litter, mostly food related, along Victoria Cross.

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Lee Car Park: Grade C. There was plenty of clear / clean and fresh looking signage relating to the use of the car park. The remainder of the car park presented poorly, with litter accumulations around the perimeter of the car park, amongst the high weeds and poorly maintained planted areas.

Fitzgerald Park: Grade A. This was an exceptionally good site. Not only was there a complete absence of litter throughout it was also very well presented and maintained. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order – clearly it is a well respected and cared for park.

St. Patrick's Street: Grade A. A very fresh impression is created along St. Patrick's Street with lovely paving / road surface and the railings, bicycle parking, bins, bollards etc. were all in excellent condition. There was a virtual absence of litter, but care needs to be taken to ensure that cigarette butt litter doesn't become an issue.

Academy Street: Grade A. The paving adds a great freshness to this street and some of the premises were attractively presented with painting and planting. Academy Street was a very clean and tidy environment.

Camden Quay: Grade A. A large derelict building dominates some of this quay (broken windows, boarded up doorways, graffiti etc.) but it hadn't become a magnet for litter, as can so easily happen with such buildings. The remainder of the area was very good with regard to litter.

Ship Street: Grade A. There was some 'olde' style street signage at one end and the paving creates a very fresh appearance. The overall impression was of a clean and tidy street.

Kent Station: Grade B. Some of this site was in good order with regard to litter but it was let down by the wide variety of food related litter next to the 'way walk' / pedestrian pathway into the station and at a corner location (painted with a yellow box). The 'staff only' section of the station was immaculate. With a little extra effort this could easily be a top ranking site.

Parnell Place: Grade A. This was a very good site in terms of presentation and maintenance. Traffic Light Box Art should hopefully reduce the incidents of graffiti, while at the same time providing an opportunity for creativity. Paving, ornamental trees, bollards etc. were all in very good condition.

Beasley Street: Grade A. There was a boarded up premises (with heavy levels of graffiti on both the shutter and lovely brick work) along this narrow pedestrianised cobbled street. The outdoor café seating area presented well. A large commercial green bin was overflowing, the contents of which, could easily end up on the ground. There was a virtual absence of litter along Beasley Street.

Grand Parade: Grade A. Grand Parade presented exceptionally well – stone seating, bins, paving, tree planting, bicycle parking etc. There was a mix of derelict and sparkling new buildings – it was very good with regard to litter. A street notice reminds the public that dog fouling is litter.

Corn Market Street: Grade A. Another excellent city centre street environment which has been attractively laid out with wide paving, creating a great sense of space. Area was further enhanced with tree planting, stone seating, outdoor café seating, etc.. It was spotless throughout.

Liberty Street: Grade A. There were some fine old red brick buildings along Liberty Street and they very much added to the overall streetscape. There was a virtual absence of litter.

M8 & R639 Connecting Road to Fermoy: Grade B. This was definitely a littered route, most obvious leaving Cork and before the Toll Booth. There was a variety of food related litter.