

**Waterford City: 16<sup>th</sup> out of 40 Towns / Cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms**

Again our cleanest city, Waterford deserves much praise. Plunkett Train Station deserves a special mention for the overall presentation and maintenance of the exterior environment – mural, plaques and planting are lovely. The ‘Cultural Quarter’ was an excellent environment in terms of both overall presentation and litter – it was spotless throughout. The Mall, Barronstrand Street, Hanover Street and Great George’s Street were also all top ranking. The People’s Park was a wonderful site – clearly it is a much respected and cared for environment. New Street Community Garden was by far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Waterford City – this beautifully laid out ‘pocket park’ in the centre of the city has been very poorly respected, to the extent that it would be unpleasant to sit and enjoy. It wasn’t just littered but subjected to dumping e.g. duvet and clothing items. Where does responsibility for this site lie? Bus Eireann Bus Depot and the Bottle / Clothing Bank directly outside were both very poor i.e. Grade C sites.

The ‘Waterford Walls’ initiative is one worth noting – it has added some welcome colour in otherwise run down / bleak environments, with the added bonus of adding some ‘art’ throughout the city.

**The Mall: Grade A.** The Mall presented very well with paving in very good order. The area around the ‘Waterford Crystal/ Visitor Centre’ created fresh impression. . A lovely feature along this stretch of road was the 3D model of many buildings / features in Waterford City. Some trees had been cut down across from Reginald’s Tower but thankfully there were still some along the central median.

**Debenhams / City Square Shopping Centre: Grade A.** All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order. At one of the several entrances there was a large plaque indicating the archaeological excavations below the shopping centre. The entrances were clear of litter and the exterior pathways linking one entrance with another were attractively paved. It was excellent with regard to litter.

**Waterford Greenway – Start Point & Environs: Grade A.** The parking and facilities at the beginning of the Greenway were excellent with plenty of visitor information notices. ‘Code for Users’ - cyclists / walkers / dog walkers was in very good condition. The area was very good with regard to litter. The approach from Grattan Quay was not as well presented or tended.

**Great George’s Street: Grade A.** This city centre pedestrianised street was attractively paved, creating a good impression. Some very old buildings were well preserved. There was a virtual absence of litter along Great George’s Street.

**Plunkett Train Station: Grade A.** There was not a cigarette butt to be seen outside the train station. This is exceptional. The overall external presentation was very good with mural to Joseph Mary Plunkett and 1916 Memorial with plants provided / maintained by Mount Congreve Gardens. Bicycle parking / car parking / tracks were all very good with regard to litter. Clearly a careful eye is kept on this environment.

**William Vincent Wallace Plaza: Grade A.** A waterside environment with performance / seating area - it was exceptionally clear of litter. All aspects of the area surveyed were in excellent condition e.g. seating, art work, large awning, visitor information notices etc.

**New Street Community Park: Grade D+.** Unveiled by President Higgins in 2014, this Community Garden, intended to be an oasis of calm within a city centre environment, has been allowed to deteriorate to a terrible state. As well as very high levels of food related litter there were discarded items e.g. duvet, clothing, shoes etc. The level of litter was so high that it was not a pleasant environment in which to sit / relax. Where does responsibility for this site lie?

**Dunmore East Approach Road: Grade A.** A very good route, litter wise, leading into to Waterford City. There were no visible litter issues. A rural route and maintained accordingly.

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

**Waterford Institute of Technology: (Exterior) Grade A.** A bustling campus yet there is a complete absence of litter throughout. Plenty of bins were positioned where students congregate, especially at seating areas. Planted areas and bicycle parking were in good condition and there were no litter issues throughout.

**Thomas Hill: Grade B+.** Some parts of the road / pavement have been resurfaced and this certainly gives what was otherwise quite a grey environment quite a lift. A more thorough approach to cleaning is required to remove the food related litter on the kerb, under cars. It would seem that a close eye is kept on the boarded up 'Munster Express' building as there were no litter issues directly associated with it. A 'Waterford Wall' at the top of the hill adds some colour.

**Waterford 'Cultural' Quarter: Grade A.** An extensive area, incorporating Cathedral Square, Bishop Palace, Medieval Museum, Reginald's Tower etc. All aspects of this site were not just excellent with regard to litter but exceptionally well presented and maintained. Planted area with sculpture was a lovely feature. This whole area is a credit to Waterford City.

**Hanover Street: Grade A.** A wonderfully presented pedestrianised street which was spotless throughout. The street is dominated by 'The Granary' brick building which has been beautifully restored. All aspects of the streetscape were excellent e.g. bins, seating, ornamental trees, bicycle parking etc.

**Barronstrand Street: Grade A.** This city shopping environment was attractively laid out, much of it pedestrianised with lovely paving, planting, seating, bicycle parking etc. It was excellent with regard to litter. There appeared to be great pride throughout Waterford City and Barronstrand Street was no exception - e.g. signage at the Merchant's Quay end of the street relating to historic points of interest.

**Merchant's Quay / Clock Tower Car Park: Grade A.** The presentation of this extensive car parking area was very good. Paving, car park surface and signage were in good order and there was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

**Waterford Bus Depot: Grade C.** The first impression of Waterford Bus Depot was a very poor one. The area immediately inside the gate and the area to the rear of the buses had a constant stream of litter - the majority of it appeared to be 'long-lie', indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time. This will only deteriorate further if not addressed.

**Bottle / Clothing Bank at entrance to Bus Depot: Grade C.** A very poorly presented site, hardly pleasant for any potential user. Broken glass was widespread on the ground in front of the bins, piles and piles of cardboard boxes were left in a corner and plastic bags were stuffed between, beneath and behind the recycle bins. Overall, a very poor environment. The 'No Dumping / Littering' signage is having no effect.

**Ferrybank Approach: Grade A.** 'Welcome to Waterford' signage and flowering create a positive first impression. There was a virtual absence of litter along this route, with just a few items on the right hand side at a recessed entrance.

**People's Park: Grade A.** A wonderful city centre park which is clearly very well respected by the users. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order e.g. playgrounds, skateboard park, seating at outdoor café, bicycle parking, water feature etc... There was a complete absence throughout the area surveyed. Very good Visitor Information notices and signage throughout. An excellent site.

**R448 from direction to Newrath Roundabout: Grade A.** A very clean first impression of Waterford City was created travelling along this main route from M9. There were no major litter issues

**N25 – N30 - N11 Waterford – Gorey Link Road: Grade B+ (Via New Ross and Enniscorthy to outskirts of Gorey)** Much of the route was generally good with regard to litter but it was almost like the plastic bag levy hadn't been imposed along some parts of this road, based on the number of plastic bags trapped in trees / shrubbery.