

Galway City: 10th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

An excellent result for Galway City, one of its best ever and one befitting one of the country's most important tourist centres. There were no heavily littered sites. With such a high number of top ranking sites there are some which deserve a special mention not just because of the absence of litter but the presentation and maintenance of same. (e.g. Grounds of Merlin Hospital). City Hall was also attractively presented and maintained with plenty of colourful and mature planting. Spanish Arch, William Street (nice greenery and art graffiti on a boarded up property), Liam Mellows GAA Club (spotlessly clean with a detailed dog fouling notice all scored very well..Care needs to be taken at Churchyard Street where alcohol related litter was problematic.

Shop Street: Grade B+. If it wasn't for the cigarette butts, not just scattered, but accumulations, Shop Street would have got the top litter grade. There were road works / pavement works taking place but they didn't impact in any negative way on the litter situation.

GMIT Campus: Grade B. The grounds and buildings of the campus were attractively presented but it was let down by a variety of litter items in the hedge undergrowth. Litter items included coffee cups, plastic bottles, cans and sweet papers. Once addressed this would be a top ranking site. Seating, bins, cycle paths, bicycle parking etc. were in very good order.

Merlin Park Hospital: Grade A. A much improved site in terms of overall presentation – the painting of a small 'entrance lodge' type structure makes a much better impression. The grounds were well presented and maintained. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Merlin Gate: Grade A. This small residential development was excellent in terms of presentation and litter. It was clean and tidy throughout, with individual properties in very good order.

Largan Park - Nos 95-168: Grade A. Another very well presented and maintained residential development. Large green space was in good order – only very occasional litter items to be seen throughout the area surveyed.

City Hall: Grade A. A very attractively presented and maintained environment with plenty of mature and colourful planting throughout. All aspects of the area surveyed were in excellent order e.g. paving, signage, bicycle parking, lamp features etc. A stand-alone stainless steel cigarette butt disposal feature blended in seamlessly to the surrounding environment.

Coolagh Roundabout in to 'G' Hotel: Grade A. Old Dublin Road. The outer section of this approach road had a couple of pieces of visible litter while the inner stretch was virtually litter free and very clean. An attractive approach to the city.

St. Augustine's Church: Grade B+. St. Augustine's Church just missed getting the top litter grade. The immediate environs of the church entrances was generally fine but there were noticeable items on the ramp, the adjacent pavement and some graffiti on the ESB type feature.

Spanish Arch: Grade A. A very nicely presented environment with paving, bicycle parking, ornamental trees, large planter boxes, bins etc. all in very good order. Much of the area was cordoned off for flood defences – there was no visible litter in this area either.

Churchyard Street: Grade B. The litter at this site was alcohol related – cans. According to locals the church grounds are a regular 'drinking' spot. The boarded up properties and graffiti created a poor impression.

William Street: Grade A. An excellent city centre pedestrianised street in terms of presentation and litter. A couple of shops have abundant planting just over their shop signage – a welcome feature. Bins and bollards were in very good order. A boarded up property had been covered in 'graffiti art', reducing the negative impact of the boarded up property.

Eyre Square Shopping Centre: Grade A. As ever, this site was in tip-top condition. Not a single piece of litter anywhere in sight over the entire three levels. Clean, shiny and very welcoming. All features e.g. bins, signage, etc. were in excellent condition.

AnTaisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 2, 2019

Port of Galway / Marina: Grade B. Generally speaking this was a very pleasant site, there was virtually no litter in the water and pathway was enhanced by some planter boxes. However, there was a litter presence along the length of the walkway / quayside and it wasn't for the lack of bins as there were ample bins along this stretch.

Gael Scoil Daraat Ballyloughlane Road: Grade A. The overall impression created at these school grounds was a positive one in terms of presentation and litter. The grounds were very well maintained. There was some building work taking place but this didn't impact in any negative way on the litter situation.

Recycle Facility at City Hall: Grade B. A small Galway City Council facility in the grounds of City Hall – see separate survey site. On first impressions it seemed like a clean and tidy site but further investigation revealed items stuffed between and beneath the recycle units. A more thorough approach to cleaning could easily address this.

Galway Greyhound Stadium: Grade A. There were no litter issues at this facility. Overall, it was a very clean and tidy amenity with all elements in good order.

Connacht Rugby Grounds: Grade A. This was a very freshly presented and maintained environment with some features brightly painted. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order e.g. buildings, grass, railings, signage, roads and paths. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

Galway City Council - Car Park and Sports Ground: Grade A. A very clean and tidy council car park, serving both the rugby and greyhound stadium. It was excellent in terms of presentation and litter with all elements in very good order.

Lough Atalia Park: Grade B. Apart from occasional litter items and a discarded doorway leaning against a wall, what really brought down the grade at Lough Atalia Park were the very heavy levels of graffiti on the long stretch of wall and lamp-post - this wasn't 'graffiti art' but created a poor impression.

Children's Playground at Lough Atalia Road Park: Grade A. A lovely children's playground with colourful information notice with map and information regarding sea-life / flora and fauna. Also, notices on 'No Smoking' environment. The playground equipment was in very good condition and it was excellent with regard to litter.

Ballyloughane Road – Approach: Grade A. The overall impression created along this quiet residential road was a positive one. The properties were well maintained and while the roadside plant growth is natural rather than 'planted and manicured' it is litter free. There was one obvious incident of graffiti, beside a road name and some industrial buildings.

Liam Mellows GAA Club: Grade A. A spotlessly clean and tidy amenity with all elements in excellent order. Very well maintained and presented. Dog fouling notice reminds the public that dog waste is a health risk, transmits disease, visually degrades a facility and omits a disgusting odour – there was no dog fouling.

Ballyloughane Beach: Grade A. Clear and clean Beach notices (2019). There was an absence of litter throughout the area surveyed and seating, bins, lifebelts were in good order. Much of the paint on the yellow railings was chipped / worn away, most notably in front of a wooden bench.

Dun Aengus Apartments: Grade A. A very well presented and maintained apartment development close to the marina / docks. Clean and tidy with pleasant planting and all elements in good order.

N84 Connecting Road to Mayo: Grade B. Over the length of this road the Mayo end was noticeably cleaner. The stretch in Galway Co Co area was mostly clean and litter free also except closer to Galway City boundary – plastic bottles and plastic bags. Generally an attractive route with some very attractive planting in the villages along the way. Also some cardboard and cardboard.