

**Waterford City Centre: 11<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.**

Waterford City continues to score highly in the IBAL Anti-Litter League. The Waterford Walls initiative is very much a feature throughout the city – this project is something that could easily be replicated in other towns / cities throughout the country. The Community Garden at New Street - very poor in the previous survey – while no longer a very heavily site, was boarded up, depriving the city of what should be a lovely calm, green space in its centre. With so many top ranking sites in Waterford City there were some which deserved a special mention – People's Park, Waterford Court House, the Cultural Quarter, Barronstrand Street, River Walk along the Quays and Plunkett Train Station – there is clearly great pride in the presentation and maintenance of these sites. There was little change at the Bring Centre outside the Bus Eireann Depot – the overall presentation was a very poor one. Another heavily littered stretch of road was Penrose Street.

**R680 Cork Road Approach: Grade A.** (from roundabout beside Waterford Retail Park). A very good first impression of Waterford City was created along this route. Road surface, footpaths, markings and signage were in good order. The road passes a series of car dealerships and IDA Industrial Estate, leading to WIT on the left. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

**Waterford Retail Park: Grade A.** An exceptionally clean and well maintained shopping / retail environment. Car park and area directly in front of the shops were spotless. An adjoining property (at the end of the retail park) was littered, creating a poor impression but this litter was on a separate property - hopefully it doesn't blow over the fencing. Strangely, the only items noted within the retail park was dog fouling.

**IDA Industrial Estate: Grade A.** A very extensive site on R680, spread over a mature setting. All interconnecting roads were very good with regard to litter. There was evidence of substantial cutting back of trees / shrubs along one stretch. Clearly a careful eye is kept on a vacant premises as there was no visible litter directly associated with it.

**R448 from Newrath Roundabout: Grade B+.** Much of this route into Waterford City was good with regard to litter with just occasional items, virtually litter free. However, there was a small recessed area on the left hand side with a litter presence, a wide variety of food related items were present.

**Bring Centre outside Bus Eireann Depot (R711): Grade C+.** This facility presented poorly with an apparent lack of thorough cleaning and obvious dumping to the rear (clothing items). In front of the units there were plenty of squashed cans. Plastic bags had been stuffed between / behind bins. There was also dog fouling in the immediate vicinity.

**Road from Grattan Quay to beginning of Waterford Greenway: Grade B+.** This is quite a rural route before the official start of the wonderful Waterford Greenway, used by cyclists / tourists as well as regular traffic leading to other road. It would have got the top litter grade if it wasn't for the litter associated with a property 'For Sale' - both recessed areas were somewhat littered. This site will only deteriorate further if not addressed.

**APCOA Car Park, opposite Tea Rooms at People's Park: Grade B.** The level of litter at this small surface car park was such that it could quickly slide to a Grade C status – heavy levels of sweet papers and fast-food wrappers with lower levels of plastic bottle and coffee cups. An APCOA van was on site at time of survey and on returning an hour later the surveyor found the car park equally littered. Where does responsibility for the maintenance / cleaning of this site lie? There were many notices with regard to 'Pay and Display' and no notices with regard to litter and no obvious litter bins.

**People's Park: Grade A.** People's Park was an exceptional site. It wasn't just spotless with regard to litter but a lovely environment for the residents and visitors to Waterford City e.g. playground, Boules, stretching equipment, skateboard park, playing pitches and Tea Room etc. It is clearly a very well respected and maintained environment with evidence of park maintenance at time of survey.

**Waterford Court House: Grade A.** As well as regular access this can be accessed by a pedestrian bridge from People's Park. The bridge itself would benefit from a coat of paint but the grounds and

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immediate environs of Waterford Court House were stunning on an autumnal day. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

**O'Connell Street: Grade A.** A long street, one end of which was in much better shape than the other. The stretch furthest away from Barronstrand had some vacant and derelict buildings but they didn't impact negatively on the litter situation. The remainder of the street had many beautiful and historic buildings which presented very well. There were plenty of 'Waterford Walls' along O'Connell Street.

**Tesco Car Park - Poleberry opposite Odeon / TK Maxx: Grade A.** A clean and tidy environment, with just one isolated car part, inside the car park entrance on the left hand side. The remainder of the car park presented well and was good with regard to litter.

**Bottle Bank at Tesco - Poleberry opposite Odeon / TK Maxx: Grade A.** A small facility - very good with regard to litter. One of the cleaner bottle bank / recycle facilities around the country. Some graffiti on the main Bottle Bank Signage.

**Plunkett Train Station: Grade A.** An excellent site in terms of litter, presentation and maintenance. It was spotless throughout. The tribute to Joseph Mary Plunkett and adjoining flower / shrubbery arrangement were in good order. Signage painted on the ground outside the entrance re: 'No Smoking' appeared to be having the desired effect – there were no butts to be seen.

**Riverwalk from Bridge to Tower Hotel: Grade A.** An extensive stretch of riverside environment with a complete absence of litter. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good condition e.g. lifebelts, seating, planting, signage etc. The 'plaza; area dedicated to William Vincent Wallace is, a lovely riverside amenity, was in excellent condition, There was an attractive memorial and some visitor information notices close to Tower Hotel - a top ranking site throughout.

**Penrose Lane with 'Glen Car Park': Grade C+.** A small stretch of this street was surveyed - between the junction with Aldi and Glen Car Park. The overall presentation was a poor one with heavy levels of litter, boarded up properties and several incidents of graffiti. Litter was most pronounced beneath the 'Fire Assembly Point' signage.

**Passage East Approach Road: Grade A.** There was a virtual absence of litter along the stretch of road just before the Apple Green Station.

**'The Green' at Bally Bricken: Grade A.** There were no litter issues at this small 'green' area. It has plenty of informative signage relating to the history of Bally Bricken. Signage, seating and sculpture were in very good order. 'Olde' style street lamps by the band stand were an attractive feature.

**Waterford Cultural Quarter: Grade A.** The area surveyed was extensive, incorporating Reginald's Tower, Medieval Museum, Bishop's Palace, Theatre Royal and landscaped garden area - they were all in exceptionally good order and spotless throughout - a credit to the users and those responsible for the maintenance of same. There is clearly great pride in the history and heritage of this city.

**Barronstrand Street: Grade A.** Barronstrand Street and an attractively landscaped 'square and seating area were surveyed. There was some lovely paving / planting / seating throughout this mostly pedestrianised shopping and city centre environment. Waterford Wall beside the church towards the bottom of the street. Nice, interesting style of bicycle parking on lamp post. Excellent with regard to litter and overall presentation.

**Conduit Lane: Grade B.** Compared to many other and adjoining city centre sites, this area presented quite poorly. There was a long and loose wire lying on the ground beside the post-boxes (a potential safety hazard?). The derelict building was in poor shape. Graffiti was a feature and the main litter items were fast food items and newspapers on the street.

**Bus Eireann Station – The Quays: Grade A.** This site had been littered in previous IBAL surveys – not so this time around. Never has this surveyor seen so many 'Anti Litter' notices! It was impossible to ignore the signs and it appears to be having the desired effect as the bust station and immediate environs were excellent with regard to litter. Planting to the front presented very well.

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**Waterford – Gorey Link Road: Grade A.** The main stretch of road that was included was the new Enniscorthy by-pass. Excellent with regard to overall presentation and litter – it was spotless throughout.