

Galway City – Ballybane: 35th out of 40 Towns / Cities surveyed. Moderately Littered.

A mixed bag for Ballybane, and a deterioration on 2019. The residential area of Ard Aoibhinn Road was very much deserving of the top litter grade, as was Briarhill Shopping Centre and Ballybane Road. The residential areas of Clareview Park and Fana Glas were both heavily littered. Ballybane Village wasn't just casually littered but subject to dumping on a large scale – several mattresses, sofa and other miscellaneous household items. Both Ballybane Church grounds and Ballybane Library were let down by litter in the surrounding shrubbery areas – a more thorough approach to cleaning is needed to address this.

Briarhill Shopping Centre: Grade A. The overall impression of this shopping environment was a positive one with a virtual absence of litter. The paving, bollard, signage was in good order, some of the litter bins were somewhat tired and old in appearance.

Car Park at Briarhill Shopping Centre: Grade A. The car park surface was fresh in appearance, with some of the markings at the pedestrian quite worn and part of the pavement quite cracked. From a litter perspective, this site was very much deserving the top litter grade.

Clareview Park: Grade C+. The properties and communal areas of this residential area were generally in a good state of maintenance, with evidence of a 'litter pick' with bag awaiting collection. However, over and above the already picked litter there was a wide variety of litter, most notably food related items.

Fana Glas: Grade C+. The area in front of the individual houses was generally fine with regard to litter but the communal grass and an area in front of a wall was where the litter problem lay. A 'No Dumping' sign was being completely ignored with large items discarded beneath it.

St. Brigid's Catholic Church: Grade B. On first impression, the grounds of this church presented well but further inspection revealed a definite litter presence (coffee cups, plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers etc.) in the shrubbery, particularly along the rear perimeter. This took away from an otherwise nicely presented environment.

Ballybane Library: Grade B. The built environment was in good order e.g. paving and the building. There were numerous pieces of food related litter scattered around the library entrance with some 'old' litter at the base of the shrubbery.

Ballybane Village: Grade D. The area immediately outside Gala shop had a virtual absence of litter but the remaining area was very poor. It wasn't just casually littered but subject to dumping e.g. a series of mattresses, chairs / sofa, wire mesh had been dumped on the ground, both sides of a grey railing. Shrubby and low-lying planting also harboured heavy levels of a wide variety of litter.

Ard Aoibhinn Road: Grade A. There was some colourful planting at the base of a street sign, and this created a positive first impression of Ard Aoibhinn Road – this high standard was sustained throughout this residential area.

Ballybane Road: Grade A. There were no litter issues along this busy thorough road. Road surface, markings and signage were in good order and the grass pavement was well kept.

Recycle Bank at Joyce's / Ballybane Shopping Centre: Grade C+. The main car park of Ballybane Shopping Centre was clean and tidy, but it was the bags of dumped bags and cardboard boxes at the recycle facility which brought down the litter grade – at least half a dozen bags.