

Cork City Centre: 17th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

While the majority of city centres fared poorly in this survey, not so Cork. With almost half of the sites surveyed got the top litter grade, and just three seriously littered sites, this is a very commendable result. The South Mall was looking the best the surveyor had ever seen; Shandon Historical Quarter was very well presented and maintained (and devoid of litter); St. Patrick's Street was exceptionally freshly presented; the waterside environment of 'The Lough' was a lovely natural setting which was well respected and maintained; Barrack Street was looking very well following significant investment in urban renewal. 'The Crow's Nest' has transformed from a derelict site to a spotless building site in 2020. By far the most heavily littered sites in this survey were St. Patrick's Quay and Carmelite Place / Western Road.

N8 Lower Glanmire Road: Grade B+. (from Junction of N8 to R635). Most of this road was very good with regard to litter but it was let down by a definite fast-food related litter presence along the central median. This took away from an otherwise well presented environment, with road surface, signages and markings in very good condition.

North Ring Road: Grade B. (from junction of Old Youghal Road to junction of Ballyhhooley Road) There was a notable improvement compared to previous IBAL surveys, with some sections of the road in very good order with regard to litter. Much of the litter to be found was at the bus stops, mostly alcohol and fast-food related items.

N20 Approach Road: Grade B. (from junction of North Ring Road to Leitrim Street). A busy dual carriageway with very good road / pedestrian surface and nice planting along some parts of the road. On first impression the road seems very clean but much of the litter was in the low-lying planting – this will not be captured by road sweeping alone. A wide variety of food related litter was trapped in the low planting.

Madden's Buildings: Grade A. A very narrow terrace of small / low houses – there was a complete absence of litter throughout.

Shandon Street: Grade B+. Much of this street was good with regard to litter but there was a bag of rubbish, some loose litter and pronounced levels of chewing gum. The paving, street bins, ornamental trees and planting presented well. Some of the buildings were in good condition, others in poor shape.

Shandon Historical Quarter: Grade A. A well preserved historical quarter with buildings and immediate environs in good order. Seating, paving, bollards, flower boxes and ornamental trees were in very good condition and there was a complete absence of litter in the area surveyed.

North Mall: Grade B+. A nicely presented, tree-lined, riverside environment with colourful wooden seating. As well as alcohol related litter at one bench there were other litter items trapped in a planted area.

Blair's Hill: Grade B. There were significant amounts of dog fouling with lower levels of fast-food wrappers, sweet papers, cans and cigarette butts along Blair's Hill. The boarded-up premises 'The High Hill' presented poorly, with peeling paint. Weeds and graffiti were pronounced and there were the remnants of burnt material. The residential stretch of the area was better with regard to litter.

Crow's Nest: Grade A. What a transformation from last year when this was a derelict site, (ranking very poorly in survey) – this time around it is a construction site and spotless.

Mardyke Arena: Grade A. This was a very freshly presented and maintained environment - all aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order and clear of litter throughout.

Carmelite Place / Western Road: Grade C. This was one of two poorly ranked sites surveyed in Cork City. A corner site which wasn't just littered but subject to dumping and well on its way to Grade D status if not addressed – wooden pallets and other debris were some of the most obvious items as well as heavy levels of food related litter.

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The Lough: Grade A. A lovely waterside amenity with excellent signage of 'Trees of the Lough'. The area has been very well maintained, with seating and bins in good condition – it was excellent with regard to litter.

Pearse Road: Grade A. A very clean and tidy residential environment – no litter issues to report and the grassy area was in good order. The area immediately outside Spar shop was also spotless.

Pouladuff Road: Grade B. This long road was mixed with regard to litter. The stretch of road closest to the city was clear of litter but there was a definite litter presence at either side of Vicor's / Connolly Road. Levels were particularly high at the bus stop and litter was also noted at the junction. A wide variety of litter was present at the above areas.

Marlboro Street: Grade B+. An attractively presented, pedestrianised, shopping street with outdoor seating, bicycle parking and colourful planting. With a little extra effort it could easily get the top litter grade - cigarette butts were very pronounced in a down drain.

Barrack Street: Grade A. There has been a significant investment in urban renewal along Barrack Street and the paving / cobble stones / ornamental tree planting look very well. Some of the buildings have been well preserved / brightly painted etc., other less so with some in a very poor state of repair. Graffiti was very much a feature. There were no litter issues along Barrack Street.

St. Patrick Street: Grade A. The presentation of St. Patrick Street was excellent, creating a very fresh impression. Paving, tree planting, road surface, seating, bollards, street bins, bicycle parking etc. were in excellent condition. It was excellent with regard to litter.

Bowling Green Street: Grade B+. This site was in much better shape than last year. The modern buildings certainly create a much fresher impression than the older ones where graffiti and dirt were a feature. Cigarette butts were the most obvious litter items with lower levels of chewing gum and sweet papers.

Lavitt's Quay: Grade B+. Loose litter items, primarily cigarette butts and lower levels of sweet papers and coffee cups were mostly found along the side of the quay with the buildings. This took away from an otherwise well presented riverside environment.

Hartley Street: Grade B+. A recently renewed area - connecting MacCurtain Street to the new bridge – the paving was lovely and fresh and clean. With a little extra effort this site could easily be top ranking, minor food related items took away from an otherwise well presented environment.

St. Patrick's Quay: Grade C. Care has been taken with this area (as evidenced by abundant colourful planting in the large stone flower bed) but it was badly let down by the fenced off area beside the planting – there were heavy accumulations of plastic bags, cans and glass / plastic bottles, the level of which could quickly deteriorate to a Grade D status if not addressed.

Shalom Park: Grade A. A small park, with a playground, which was very well presented and maintained – there was a complete absence of litter throughout.

South Mall: Grade A. South Mall was looking the best this IBAL surveyor has seen. The tree lined street had attractive paving, summer bedding / planting. Sculpture, seating etc. – all were in very good condition.

Douglas Road: Grade A. A clean and tidy impression was created along this approach road into Cork City.