

Dublin City: 34<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered.

It was disappointing to see a significant rise in the number of litter blackspots in the Capital, among them Werburgh Street Car Park and surrounds, derelict sites on Middle Abbey Street and Bridgefoot Street and Loftus Lane, which was in a similarly poor state last year – why has it not been addressed in the interim? Dumping was evident in many of the worst sites. There were fewer litter-free sites overall, but the high profile areas of Grafton Street, Dame St, Henry St, Capel Street, Halfpenny Bridge and Christchurch Cathedral were all clean. Temple Bar was moderately littered.

**Grafton Street: Grade A.** Grafton Street scored very well on the litter front and all aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order. The large planter boxes were quite striking, and the paving was very fresh. The 'temporary' toilets at the top of the street were as discreet and attractive as anybody could ask for – the surrounding greenery took away the functional look of this facility. It doesn't seem that long ago that Grafton Street was recording full occupancy – unfortunately that is no longer the case with almost a dozen outlets closed down / closing down.

**Bachelors Walk: Grade A.** The overall impression created at this site was a very positive one. The boardwalk was freshly presented with bins, planter boxes, signage, seating etc. in good condition. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

**Bachelors Way: Grade B.** (an interconnecting laneway between Bachelors Walk and North Lotts). There was very much a sense of a 'back lane' to this site - it presented very poorly with regard to background environmental indicators e.g. very heavy levels of graffiti, fly-posting, derelict buildings and a general air of neglect. There were heavy levels of cigarette butts, chewing gum and fouling.

**Bolton Street: Grade B.** Fresh and recent litter took away from what was otherwise a well presented street. The most noticeable litter items were coffee cups, chewing gum, cans, sweet papers and cigarette butts, most of which were close to the college building. Graffiti was a feature on many different surfaces.

**Capel Street: Grade B+.** Fresh bins and cigarette butt units, combined with the bicycle parking units, create a good impression along Capel Street. Cigarette butts were the most obvious litter type with lower levels of chewing gum and sweet wrappers. With a little extra care and attention this could be a top-ranking site.

**Chapelizod ByPass: Grade A.** There was negligible litter along this busy route which presented very well. Road surface, signage and markings were in good condition along this route and trees / shrubbery area were tidy and well tended.

**Green Street: Grade B.** There was a definite litter presence along Green Street, heavy levels of cans, with lower levels of plastic bottles and sweet wrappers. Paving was in good order, but some parts of the road surface were uneven / potholed.

**Ha'penny Bridge: Grade A.** A plaque relating to 'European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage' was fresh in appearance and looked very well. The bridge was generally good with regard to litter, albeit chewing gum did feature.

**Henry Street & Mary Street: Grade A.** An excellent impression was created with regard to litter, but it was impossible to ignore the sleeping bag / cardboard box outside a shuttered shop. Colourful hanging baskets looked well, and the street bins were in good condition. The paving along Henry Street presented very well, fresh and clean in appearance.

**Castle Street: Grade C.** There was a heavy litter presence (a wide variety of litter types) throughout the car parking and at the derelict / vacant sites. The overall impression created here was a poor one and it will only deteriorate further if not addressed. Graffiti was widespread – on the red brick walls, electricity boxes and black gates.

## **An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 1, 2020**

**Christchurch Cathedral: Grade A.** All aspects of the grounds of Christchurch Cathedral were in very good order – seating, signage, sculpture, planted areas, paving underfoot etc. It was excellent with regard to litter.

**The ‘Peace Garden’: Grade A.** (directly across from Christchurch Cathedral) Officially opened June 2019, this small space is an oasis of calm, right in the heart of the city. It was in excellent condition, with a virtual absence of litter throughout.

**Dame Street: Grade A.** A very good impression was created along Dame Street with the attractive streetscape at Exchange Court in excellent condition – large planter boxes, paving, seating, signage etc all presented very well. There were plenty of bins throughout the area surveyed.

**Dublin Castle: Grade A.** The grounds of Dublin Castle were in very good order and devoid of all litter. Clearly it is a very well respected and attended site as there were no litter bins either. All aspects of the area surveyed were in good order.

**James’s Street: Grade B.** A series of shuttered / boarded up premises, old public telephone box, combined with graffiti and fly-posting, all presented poorly. The main litter items were plastic bottles, cans and sweet papers, the level of which was well on its way to Grade C status if not addressed.

**Parliament Street: Grade A.** Parliament Street presented very well with paving, ornamental trees, bicycle parking, bollards etc. in very good condition. It was excellent with regard to litter.

**Navan Road: Grade A.** A clean impression was created along this route with a virtual absence of litter. The recent cut grass verges looked well. The bus shelter was spotless, and Ashtown Roundabout was tidy.

**Ormond Quay, Lower: Grade A.** This stretch of road was very fresh in appearance with the paving looking particularly well. Road surface, signage and markings were in good order and there was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

**Parnell Street: Grade B+.** Bins, paving, bicycle parking, planter boxes, ornamental trees etc. were all in good condition and presented well. The main litter items were chewing gum, cigarette butts and sweet wrappers, mostly close to the fast-food outlets.

**Temple Bar: Grade B+.** Overall, there was not too much litter (mostly chewing gum, bottle caps lodged in between the cobble stones, alcohol cans and plastic bottles) in Temple Bar. However, the background environmental indicators presented poorly e.g. fly-posting was a feature and graffiti was pronounced on many different surfaces throughout. Street signage was very old and illegible.

**Derelict / Wasteland at Mount Brown, Kilmainham: Grade D.** A very poor site which has been used as a dumping ground – not just casually littered but all manner of large items have been abandoned.

**Loftus Lane (Dublin 1): Grade D.** There were piles and piles of all manner of casual litter and large items, particularly around the blue and yellow containers on the lane. A discarded sleeping bag (soiled) and a pop-up tent were also present. The overall presentation and maintenance of Loftus Lane was poor, and graffiti was pronounced.

**Derelict site at Bridgefoot Street: Grade D.** (Usher’s Quay end) Litter items were not just behind the fence but strewn on the pavement – all manner of food related items, with plastic bags particularly prevalent. This will only continue if not addressed.

**Victoria Quay: Grade A.** A very clean impression was created along this busy route. Road surface, signage and markings were in good order.

**Derelict site on Middle Abbey Street: Grade D.** This boarded up, old building with a basement (No. 72), just minutes from O’Connell Street was in a very poor state and did not get like this over night. The basement has been used as a dumping ground.

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**Henrietta Place: Grade D.** The 'No Dumping' signage is clearly being ignored. Henrietta Place wasn't just casually littered but black sacks and other items (including sleeping bags and wooden pallets) had been discarded. Graffiti was widespread throughout.

**Werburgh Street Car Park and surrounds: Grade D.** A street level NCPS (Nationwide Controlled Parking Systems Ltd) car park with plenty of clear and clean signage relating to same. The car park was not just heavily littered, but dumping was very much in evidence, including sleeping bags and large items. The area immediately surrounding the car park was also heavily littered.