

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

Mahon: 29th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered.

Mahon has seen some progress since last year, as exemplified by St. Michael's Cemetery Car Park and the residential area of The Maples – though these sites were still somewhat littered. The overall impression at Avenue de Rennes remains a littered one. Examples of top ranking sites included the residential areas of The Crescent and Long Shore Drive and the park / waterside setting of Joe McHugh Park – the latter was a particularly nice outdoor environment. By far the most heavily littered site was the Open Green Space, off Ringmahon Road – there was little change in the litter status since last year. There were no litter blackspots.

St. Michael's Cemetery Car Park: Grade B. While this was a somewhat improved site from a poor site in 2019, there was still a definite litter presence. There were heavy levels of cigarette butts and lower levels of plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers, sweet papers and a shopping trolley.

The Maples: Grade B. There was a significant improvement at The Maples, compared to all previous IBAL visits and this time around there was no dumping. However, there was still very much a litter presence, the level of such was that it could quickly deteriorate. As well as loose litter items there was a shopping basket discarded on the road. Perhaps the installation of litter awareness notices might help?

St. Michael's Drive: Grade B. St. Michael's Drive was somewhat of a mixed site in terms of presentation and litter. The stretch with commercial offices was excellent, very freshly presented with all aspects in very good condition. The residential stretch was not so good with regard to litter – a wide variety of food related items were present along the road surface, pavement and behind the railings.

The Crescent: Grade A. A top ranking residential area with a virtual absence of litter throughout – a credit to the residents.

Open Green Space, off Ringmahon Road: Grade C. (link pedestrian trail between Ashwood and Aldi) This was by far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Mahon and there was little change since last year's survey. The large green area was clean but there were litter accumulations all along the trail, mostly in the undergrowth that line the path – heavy levels of a wide variety of food and alcohol related items and some plastic wrapping were present. Maintenance of the low lying shrubbery was poor, leading to and probably encouraging more litter.

Joe McHugh Park: Grade A. This park / waterside setting was very much deserving of the top litter grade. Signage and seating were in good order and the area was well served by litter bins. A pity to see graffiti on the stone work.

Long Shore Drive: Grade A. A very clean and well presented residential area. Attractive signage indicates different locations within the development.

Mahon Point Farmers Market at Mahon Point: Grade A. Located at the car park of Mahon Point Shopping Centre, the farmers market is a great addition to the area. The market was in excellent order and there were no visible litter issues.

Mahon Junction off the N40: Grade B. Road surface, signage and markings were in very good order. Some parts of the immediate environs were in much better shape than others – a wide variety of food litter was present, along with noticeable levels of face masks / gloves. The side facing Jacob's Island harboured the most litter.

Avenue de Rennes: Grade B. The general impression along this road was a littered one, not just usual food / alcohol related but also plastic ties on poles and face masks. Cork City Council child drawing for dog fouling notice was a colourful one.