

North Inner City Dublin: 40th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Seriously Littered.

Unfortunately, there was little improvement to note in Dublin's North Inner City. A lovely initiative by North East Inner City Greening Strategy along James Joyce Street – 'Grown - Dublin's Urban Forest' – added some welcome greenery and certainly looked very well. James Joyce Street wasn't just good with regard to litter but also presented very well e.g. paving, road surface, bicycle parking, street bins etc. With little green space within the north inner city it is such a pity to see that the park at Guild Street / Crinian Street has virtually disappeared as it now accommodates a 'Building Site Office' replete with site containers and a school, with prefabricated buildings. The remainder of the park at the Crinian Strand end was in good order with some nice wooden play equipment. This was in stark contrast to the sites surveyed directly outside Crinian Park e.g. Crinian Strand, Commons Street, Sheriff Street Lower (both the residential stretch and the stretch leading to Connolly Station) – these areas were not just littered but subject to dumping. The Royal Canal at Spencer Dock would have got the top litter grade if it wasn't for the litter and miscellaneous items within the can. Dog Fouling was very much a feature at many of the sites surveyed in NIC Dublin.

James Joyce Street: Grade A. Grown Dublin's Urban Forest' – this added some welcome greenery and certainly looked very well. James Joyce Street wasn't just good with regard to litter but also presented very well e.g. paving, road surface, bicycle parking, street bins etc.

Park at Guild Street / Crinian Strand: Grade A. It is such a pity to see that the park at Guild Street / Crinian Street has virtually disappeared as it now accommodates a 'Building Site Office' replete with site containers and a school, with prefabricated buildings. The remainder of the park at the Crinian Strand end was in good order with some nice wooden play equipment.

Crinian Strand: Grade D. The residential area immediately outside Crinian Park wasn't just casually littered but had several incidents of dumping, including a large piece of furniture.

Commons Street: Grade C+. There was some loose litter along Commons Street but it was the discarding of black sacks which significantly brought down the litter grade. The signage with the junction of Oriel Street related to 'Do not feed the pigeons, or other birds'.

Fitzroy Avenue: Grade A. A long stretch of residential road between Croke Park and Drumcondra. The overall impression was generally a good one with regard to litter, with the end closer to Croke Park in a cleaner condition. There were plenty of 'No Dumping' signs along the road.

Croke Park – Environs: Grade A. An exceptionally fresh and clean environment – it wasn't just excellent with regard to litter but the area outside the grounds were in excellent order. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

Talbot Street: Grade B (between James Joyce Street and Amiens Street). Care has been taken with the streetscape e.g. paving / planting / plenty of bins throughout. Clearly the issue of abandoned bicycles at the bicycle parking areas is being addressed as many of the seemingly 'abandoned' bicycles had notes to that effect i.e. 'you have 14 days to remove it'. Loose litter, mostly food related, and heavy levels of cigarette butts outside some shops, were present along Talbot Street.

Diamond Park: Grade A. There were many signs throughout this small park (junction of Gardiner Street and Sean McDermott Street) reminding the public of the requirement to obey Covid 19 guidelines re social distancing / hand washing etc. – otherwise the park will close. It was busy with many users on a sunny September afternoon - there was no litter issue. Playground equipment, table tennis table, bins and seating (bar one broken bench) were in good order. There was a sign at the playground reminding the public of usage of same and that it was not to be used as a toilet.

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

National Famine Way: Grade A. A lovely new resource which originates at Strokestown Park, Co Roscommon. The area surveyed was from the bridge at Upper Sheriff Street with the bridge at North Strand – it is an extensive stretch and while not spotless throughout the overall impression was a virtual absence of litter. With the official launch of the 'National Famine Way' in early September, it may become more heavily trafficked, by pedestrians and cyclists.

Sheriff Street Upper: Grade B. Just a few years ago this long road was a series of 'wastelands' and regularly scored poorly in IBAL surveys. There has been significant development along the road, combined with road / pavement resurfacing – resulting in a much fresher appearance. Loose food related items, were strewn along the pavement, along with a definite dog fouling presence. There is a 'bricked up building' close to the junction with East Road which presents poorly with significant weeds protruding from the building.

Derelict Site at Seville Place: Grade A. These two houses, just before the bridge, coming down Seville Place, had been problematic for a number of years. They have since been addressed with hoarding surrounding them. Painting on the hoarding indicates that 'St. Laurence O'Toole Pipe Band founded here in 1910 – the first secretary was Sean O'Casey'. There was no litter directly associated with this site this time around.

Spencer Dock LUAS: Grade A. A pristine site with regard to litter and pristine in terms of overall presentation – all aspects of the station were in excellent condition e.g. seating, signage, planting, bins etc.

Richmond Cottages, North: Grade B. There was a definite litter presence at this residential area – while not quite as pronounced as IBAL 2019, it could quickly deteriorate if not addressed. The wall mural was a welcome feature in an otherwise poorly presented environment. The main litter items were food related e.g. plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers and sweet papers.

Royal Canal at Spencer Dock: Grade C+. This was a very mixed site as the pathway, grass and presentation of the land based environment was a very good one but it was badly let down by the litter and miscellaneous items in the water. These had accumulated at the lock just close to Samuel Beckett Bridge and at the bridge by Sheriff Street Upper. It looked like a bunch of bicycles and scooters had already been removed from the canal.

Bring Centre at East Road: Grade C+. This site is no stranger to a poor litter grade - it has been stubbornly poor on many previous occasions. Apart from one fresh clothing unit (already covered in graffiti), the remaining units were very poorly presented. It wasn't just casually littered but the very deliberate discarding of bags of rubbish behind the units and the stuffing of plastic bags between them.

North Circular Road: Grade C. It is hard to remember if North Circular Road has ever scored better than a Grade C / C+ status. The area surveyed was from the junction of Sherrard Street to the junction with Summerhill. With such a long stretch of road, there were some stretches which were somewhat cleaner than others. The overall impression was of a seriously littered environment. At many of the street bins there were deposits of plastic bags of rubbish and a closed down business premises (signage falling off), recessed from the road, presented very poorly with accumulations of various items to the front.

Spring Garden Street: Grade C. A heavy litter presence pervaded this street, along with black sack – overall impression was a very poor one with little change from IBAL 2019 survey.

Great Clarence Street: Grade C. On the approach from Dunne Street this residential area seemed reasonably clear of litter. As one travelled further along the street there were some black sacks, at the end of the street on the left and along the pedestrian pathway leading to North Strand.

North Strand / North Strand Road: Grade C. The junction at Five Lamps was very attractively laid out with paving / planting / seating etc. The litter began at this junction, with the planter boxes being used as a litter bin. Many of the street bins had plastic bags of rubbish on the ground. Loose litter was widespread all the way to the junction with Annesley Place. Graffiti was very pronounced on a wide variety of surfaces throughout North Strand. Dog fouling was also significant.

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Dry Dock at IFSC: Grade D+. This is now empty of water, a large hole in the ground, with area surrounding it exceptionally well presented and maintained e.g. CHG building, paving, seating, sculpture etc. It was not a typical Grade D site with dumping or disposal of large items. Instead, there were very heavy accumulations of alcohol and food related litter around the perimeter. It became more pronounced as one went in towards the IFSC.

Summerhill: Grade D+. Summerhill is a very long stretch and there were some parts which did present well .e.g. Summerhill Primary Care Centre – the paving, planting, ornamental trees etc and at the other end of the road where there were some new buildings. The litter / dumping along Summerhill was mostly located close to the shops and at the residential areas, on both sides of the road. There were many black sacks of rubbish as well as other miscellaneous items e.g. suitcase / child's car seat.

Sheriff Street, Lower – Residential: Grade D+. There was persistent litter from the junction with Commons Street up to Spencer Dock – all manner of food related litter and a carpet of cigarette butts. It was the extensive dumping at a corner site (boarded up with steel) which brought the litter grade right down. Large items e.g. mattress and other items were discarded here. The pavements were very grimy.

Railway Line at North Strand: Grade D+. A couple of sacks had been thrown over and landed on the railway line, the contents of which a fox was enjoying at the time of IBAL survey.

Buckingham Street, Upper: Grade D. The bottom of the street presents well with nice paving and fresh looking planter boxes with colourful planting within. Dog fouling was very pronounced along both sides of the street. Sacks of rubbish had been discarded by a bin at the top of the street, dumping was visible in the basement of residential area (side of street with Bella Street) and the streets / laneways perpendicular were heavily littered. The street signage at the junction of Killarney Street is located extraordinarily high, particularly if one is driving and looking to see it.

Sheriff Street Lower – Amiens Street to Commons Street: Grade D. The pathway under the railway bridge was very heavily littered with loose items. Dumping had taken place behind a fenced area (Connolly Station electricity). There was persistent litter in front of the bus parking.

Canal at junction of Ossary Road: Grade D. There were major accumulations of food related and other miscellaneous items within the water.