

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

Tallaght: 37th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Littered.

The further drop in cleanliness in Tallaght is disappointing, given how well the area had come on a few years ago. There were three litter blackspots. There was no change in the poor litter grade at Pedestrian Access to Cheeverstown Road from Kilmartin Drive and the Car Park at Tallaght Courthouse Square Car Park – the former wasn't just casually littered but subject to dumping. There were significant accumulations of litter and dumping along the stretch of road between Fortunestown Way to Fortunestown Lane. There was a notable improvement at Tallaght Library / Alexandra House and Environs compared to last year – this time around it was deserving of the top litter grade. Likewise, with Sean Walsh Memorial Park - as is fitting for a 'Green Flag' for park – 2019.

Brookview Avenue: Grade B. There was a definite litter presence throughout this residential area, mostly plastic bottles, cans and sweet papers. Not only was there casual litter but the remnants of a bonfire. The level was such that it could quickly deteriorate to a Grade C status if not addressed.

Main Road: Grade B. There was a definite litter presence along the Main Road – mostly food related but also some face masks. It was particularly noticeable at a recessed area behind black railings and at the entrance to Tallaght Youth Centre. This took away from the nicely presented environment with good paving, lovely 'olde' style street lamps and colourful hanging baskets.

Pedestrian access to Cheeverstown Road from Kilmartin Drive: Grade D. There has been no change in the litter grade since this was last surveyed for IBAL in 2019. It wasn't just littered but subject to dumping. It was in a very poor state. The small CCTV signage re littering / dumping is clearly not a deterrent.

Tallaght Library / Alexandra House and Environs: Grade A. A much improved site compared to last surveyed when this was a Grade C status. The built environment was very fresh with lovely stonework on the library building and steps. Abundant planting adds plenty of greenery in this building dense environment. Seating, planting, bins etc. were in excellent condition. There was a virtual absence of litter.

Tallaght Courthouse Square Car Parking: Grade D. The main surface area of the car park was mildly littered but it was the litter and debris around the perimeter which was responsible for the very poor litter grade. There has been no change since this was last surveyed for IBAL in 2019. As well as a myriad of regular litter items there was some builders' debris. Where does responsibility lie for the cleaning of this 'active' car park?

The Anglican Communion Church of Ireland: Grade A. This site wasn't excellent with regard to litter but was also very well maintained. Seating, signage, grass etc. were in very good order.

Tallaght By Pass: Grade A. (from Blessington to M50) A very good impression was created travelling along this busy route. Road surface, signage and markings, footpath and cycle path were in good order and the grass verges had recently been cut. There was no visible litter.

Sean Walsh Memorial Park: Grade A. Sean Walsh Memorial Park got the top litter grade, as is fitting for a park with a 'Green Flag' (2019). It was also much improved compared to previous years. Excellent signage and very fresh yellow pedestrian gate entrance.

Recycle Facility at San Walsh Memorial Park: Grade B+. Cardboard boxes had been left by the recycle units, to the front and rear. Broken glass was on the ground in front of the units, some of which were very grubby. Some of the signage relating to the facility was on the ground.

Fortunestown Way to Fortunestown Lane: Grade D. There were significant accumulations of all manner of litter along this route. It wasn't so much isolated to one area but consistent and persistent throughout – on the road, the pavement, trapped behind fences / railings and at the bus-stops – nowhere was immune. As well as the casual litter there was duping behind a green fence, several black sacks and other items of debris. Graffiti was also very much a feature.