

An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 2, 2020

Cork City Centre: 24th out of 37 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered.

Cork City will be disappointed to lose its clean status after many years. While some of the approach roads scored well e.g., N27 South Link Road, Model Farm Road and Airport Road, others were poor e.g., Wilton Road, South Ring Road, Sarsfield Roundabout and Commons Road – the latter was by far the most heavily littered. Food related litter, particularly fast-food wrapper and plastic bottles was noted at many of these approach roads. Lr John Street was a litter blackspot. Douglas Street deserves a special mention for the great effort and initiatives that have taken place in terms of overall presentation; Half Moon Street was exceptionally freshly presented and excellent with regard to litter; the residential areas of Magazine Road and Tramore Lawn were very much deserving of the top litter grade; Connell Street had many buildings which were in poor order but clearly a careful eye is kept on them as there was no litter directly associated with them.

N27 South Link Road: Grade A. The overall impression created at this site was a positive one with a virtual absence of litter throughout.

White Street: Grade B+. Apart from some heavy levels of graffiti and various items of food related litter, this was a well presented environment with lovely open space which has been attractively landscaped. Much of the litter was outside Joyce's Court Complex.

Douglas Street: Grade A. A mixed-use street with both residential and commercial units, some brightly painted. A bohemian and community feel pervade this street - 'Welcome to Douglas St' signage on an old style bicycle, replete with flower boxes on the front and back carriers. The old horse trough had colourful and fresh planting and the Cork Flower Studio has created a lovely feature (substantial wooden planters) which very much enhances the street. The overall impression with regard to litter was a very good one and clearly a careful eye is kept on any old / vacant properties as there was no litter directly associated with them.

High Street: Grade B+. Some of the individual houses were in better order than others along this hilly residential street. There was nowhere in particular that the litter were obvious, just a scattering of a wide variety of small food related items.

St. Patrick's Street: Grade B. The street scape was very freshly presented with paving, ornamental trees, bicycle parking, signage etc. in very good condition. Cigarette butts / chewing gum were the most obvious litter types with lower levels of coffee cups, plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers, cans and sweet papers.

Magazine Road: Grade A. A very well presented residential environment with attractive railings at some of the houses. It was very good with regard to litter.

Model Farm Road: Grade A. A mixed use road with a combination of commercial, industrial, educational and residential with some premises in better shape than others. The overall impression was of a pretty clean environment.

Sarsfield Road Roundabout: Grade C+. The built environment was well presented but the area was let down by heavy accumulations of food related litter. It was mostly concentrated on the city and western side of the roundabout.

Tramore Lawn: Grade A. There was virtual absence of litter along this residential road of semi-detached properties.

Wilton Road Approach: Grade C. Excellent road surfaces and signage but heavily littered in parts, most especially from the Tesco exit to the ESB site. 10 PPE masks counted in 5 metres at the Tesco exit, on Wilton Road. Shrubs next to Tesco are heavily littered as is the front of the SMA House.

Airport Road: Grade A. Road surface, signage and markings were in good order. The overall impression was a very good one with regard to litter.

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South Ring Road: Grade C+. Significantly littered with food related litter, the most obvious was plastic bottles, cans, fast-food wrappers and coffee cups with lower levels of glass bottles and plastic bags. Concentrations were highest at junctions 10 and 6.

Turner's Cross: Grade B. Cigarette butts were caught in the cracked pavements, as well as outside BAR ONE Racing and the Beer Garden; glass bottles and cans (some alcohol related) were strewn about the pavement. Lower level items included food related litter and some face masks.

Lower John Street: Grade D. This was by far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Cork City. Lower John Street wasn't so much littered as subject to domestic dumping – at least half a dozen black sacks had been discarded, along with card boxes and other miscellaneous items.

South Mall: Grade B. A very freshly presented environment with paving, signage, substantial and colourful planter boxes, seating etc. in very good order. Cigarette butts were the most obvious items (especially outside the now sold UCC building and immediately outside the Imperial Hotel). There were lower levels of a wide variety of food related litter.

Roman Street: Grade C+. While the road surface and markings were in good order, the paving was cracked and presented poorly along this residential street. Heavy levels of fast-food wrappers, cans and sweet papers prevailed with lower levels of coffee cups, plastic bags, glass and plastic bottles, cigarette butts and dog fouling.

Union Quay: Grade B+. Some urban renewal has taken place with fresh paving and colourful bicycle parking feature. With a little extra care and attention this could easily be a top ranking site – as well as some occasional litter items, there was a plastic bag at the base of the small bottle recycle facility.

Railway Street: Grade B. The paving is fresh and looks very well, road surface and markings were in good order and the tree planting enhances a street otherwise dominated by the built environment. There was a definite litter presence, the level of which was such that it could easily slide to a Grade C status. The majority of the litter was food related.

Connecting pedestrian walkway between Brian Boru Street & Lower Glanmire Road: Grade B. The paving / dedicated cycle and signage looked well but the remainder of the laneway presented poorly. The area is dominated by graffiti on almost every possible surface. Heavy levels of broken glass and dog fouling also featured here, along with lower levels of other food related items.

Connell Street: Grade A. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the boarded up / derelict buildings along this street as there was no litter directly associated with them. While the overall environment presents poorly it was not a littered one.

Half Moon Street: Grade A. An exceptionally freshly presented environment with paving, bollards, road surface / markings in very good order. It was excellent with regard to litter.

French Church Street: Grade B. A more thorough approach to cleaning is needed to address the accumulations of cigarette butts, especially at the gutters and at entrances to various buildings. Other litter items included lower levels of food related litter. The large boarded up stone building was not a contributing factor to the litter along French Church Street.

Oliver Plunkett Street: Grade B. This was a mixed street in terms of litter – the stretch between junction of Pembroke Street and Parnell Place was excellent with regard to litter but between Pembroke Street to Grand Parade had some visible litter.

Dunkettle Interchange: Grade C+. This area was characterised by heavy levels of fast-food litter, cans, plastic bottles and coffee cups with lower levels of a wide variety of other types of litter.

Commons Road Approach: Grade D+. The very significant levels of litter would not necessarily be visible by cars driving by. An area behind broken stone fence had accumulations on the grass and at the base of the trees; another accumulation of alcohol cans was close to the bus stop (53-661) where the low stone wall was broken and the area directly behind the bus stop was heavily littered. Much of this litter was 'long-lie', indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time.