

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

North Inner City Dublin: 36th out of 37 towns / cities surveyed. Seriously Littered.

A marginal improvement over the past 6 months in the North Inner City has failed to elevate the area from "seriously littered" status. Disappointingly, most of the heavily littered sites previously highlighted have not been improved and there were a number of litter blackspots such as IFSC's Dry Dock, Crinian Strand and the North Circular Road. Exceptions are Talbot Street and the Royal Canal at Spencer Dock, which has been transformed. The area is not without very clean sites, including North Wall Ave, Crinian Pk, Mary's Mansions, Diamond Park and Liberty Park.

Royal Canal at Spencer Dock: Grade A. A superb site!! Hugely improved on previous visits when it ranked very poorly due to the heavy litter presence in the water. This time around the water was very good with regard to litter. The surrounding pathway / grass etc. were in excellent order and created a very fresh impression.

Sheriff Street Upper: Grade B. The overall appearance of this very long stretch of road has improved enormously over the last number of years. The stretch of road with new road surface / paving was particularly fresh in appearance and very good with regard to litter. The majority of the litter was at the older stretch of road, particularly coming from the junction with Guild Street - at the bridge and bus stop. Covid related litter (both gloves and masks) was most pronounced close to the building sites.

North Wall Avenue: Grade A. A 'new' street, new development, which was very fresh in appearance - road surface / paving in excellent order and bike parking / ornamental trees looked very well. There was a virtual absence of litter, bar cigarette butts, particularly close to the building sites.

Bring Centre, East Road: Grade C. There was little change in the presentation of this facility. Very poor facility in terms of the condition of the recycle units and the high level of graffiti. While some of the bottle units were full, it was the discarded clothing, cardboard boxes and other miscellaneous items which brought down the overall grade.. A consistently poor site, needing better management.

Sheriff Street Lower – Residential: Grade C. There was a persistent litter problem along the length from Laurence O'Toole Church to junction with Commons Street - heavy levels of a wide variety of litter, mostly food related and some alcohol items.

Sheriff Street Lower – Bus depot: Grade C. The loose litter levels visible on previous IBAL visits were not quite as pronounced but there were still some accumulations, most notably behind the fencing at ESB Connolly Station. Graffiti was very much a feature throughout this stretch of road.

Crinian Park: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout this park. The signage relating to the name was illegible due to the graffiti. Playground equipment looked in good order. There was remnant of burnt material beside the railing but it was not a littered site.

Crinian Strand: Grade D. A very poorly presented residential area – not just littered but subject to dumping and vandalism. As well as casual litter, there was a supermarket trolley, large sofa, evidence of burnt materials and general domestic rubbish, including several disposable nappies.

Great Clarence Street: Grade B. The main stretch of this residential road was generally good with regard to litter - the only items were at the end of the road including discarded clothing.

Dry Dock at IFSC: Grade D. Little change in litter situation since IBAL Survey 1, 2020. As well as food / alcohol related litter, there were street cones, and other large miscellaneous items. The immediate surrounding area was pristine, exceptionally well presented and maintained.

Mary's Mansions: Grade A. (a junction of James Joyce Street and Sean McDermott Street). A brand new redevelopment which has been attractively landscaped to the front with lovely paving, planting and seating. The whole impression was a very fresh one and it was excellent with regard to litter.

Diamond Park: Grade A. The amenities within this small park environment were in very good condition e.g. PE equipment, playground, table-tennis tables, wooden seating, signage, bins etc.. There was a virtual absence of litter within the park.

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Foley Street: Grade B+. There was a scattering of litter along Foley Street – a wide variety of items were present e.g. coffee cups, plastic bottles, glass bottles (alcohol), cans and fast-food wrappers. The bicycle stand towards James Joyce Street end was broken.

Talbot Street: Grade B+. (from James Joyce Street to Amiens Street). Talbot Street was much improved compared to IBAL survey in 2019 – this time around there were just some loose food relate litter items which took away from an otherwise attractively presented streetscape. There were plenty of street bins throughout area surveyed and some colourful planting in tiered planter boxes. Graffiti did feature on many different surfaces.

Buckingham Street Upper: Grade C. While there wasn't the same large scale dumping as the previous survey, Buckingham Street Upper still scored poorly. Much of the loose litter lay on the left hand side of the kerb as one went up the hill . There was a bag of domestic rubbish, with seagulls feasting on the contents, much of which were strewn about the street.

Summerhill: Grade C+. Summerhill was such a mixed site in terms of presentation and litter. Some parts (e.g. near Summerhill Primary Care centre and at the other end of the road towards Gardiner Street) were generally in very good order. However, the stretch of road with residential units, along both sides of the road, was very heavily littered, not just loose items but accumulations of a wide variety of food related litter.

Liberty Park: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter in this small park, at Foley Street. The grass and overall presentation of the park was good.

Richmond Cottages, North: Grade D. Richmond Cottages North has slipped back to the poor litter grade in 2019 IBAL survey. It wasn't just casually littered but subject to heavy dumping in a few different locations, along this short stretch of laneway. The large mural of Brendan Behan looked well but other street art / murals had been defaced.

North Circular Road: Grade D. This long stretch of road is usually a serious litter problem but this time around the situation was significantly worse than previous surveys – there were several separate incidents of dumping, sometimes up to half a dozen black sacks at a time. Large items had accumulated in the front of a disused commercial premises.

Royal Canal between Clarke Bridge and North Strand: Grade C. On a positive note, the water along this stretch of the canal was clear of visible litter and the main pathway presented well with regard to litter. The litter issues lay close to the bridges at either end of the stretch of canal, primary food and alcohol related but also significant dog fouling near Charleville Mall. Graffiti was very pronounced at Clarke Bridge.

Nottingham Street: Grade A. There was colourful planting at the beginning and end of this short residential street and a colourful mural presented well. There is no doubt that a sense of pride prevails as it was excellent with regard to litter and even the laneways off the street were clear.

Spring Garden Street: Grade B. A disused building has been painted and 'takes away the bare' look of a property that might otherwise presented poorly. The planter boxes are a nice feature, adding some colour. It was somewhat littered with litter more pronounced at the Ballybough end.

North Strand: Grade C. The road surface was in good order but the pavement was frequently grubby and levels of graffiti were pronounced throughout, especially at boarded up properties. The poor grade wasn't just due to casual litter but incidents of dumped bags of rubbish.

Railway at Ossary Road: Grade B. This was a much improved environment without the heavy levels of dumping noted in previous IBAL Surveys. The colourful mural, depicting Dublin landmarks and quotes from Ulysses were a welcome addition to the surrounding environment.

Great Clarence Street: Grade B+. This was a much improved grade for Great Clarence Street compared to IBAL 2019 survey.