

Galway City Centre: 19th out of 37 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered.

An improvement, and a creditable result for Galway, which just fails to regain Clean status. Just under half of the sites surveyed got the top litter grade. There were no litter blackspots but some heavily littered sites need to be addressed. Some good examples of the top-ranking sites included residential area of Heather Grove, IDA Mervue Industrial Estate / Business & Technology Park, Liam Mellows GAA Club, Lough Atalia Road Children's Playground and Bon Secours Hospital – what sets these and other top-ranking sites apart is that they were not just good with regard to litter but well presented and maintained. Two of the seriously littered sites didn't get into that state over night and clearly need better maintenance e.g., Market Street Car Park and Galwegians Rugby Club – both had evidence of 'long-lie' litter.

Heather Grove: Grade A. An exceptionally freshly presented and maintained residential environment. All aspects were in very good order and it was excellent with regard to litter.

Beach Walk and immediate environs at Ballyloughane: Grade B. A well-presented and maintained environment with seating, car parking, paving, grass area, etc. in good order. The main litter items were coffee cups, fast-food wrappers and sweet papers. Impossible to ignore the dog fouling signage on the ground with illustration and '*Pick Up or Pay Up*'.

Plunkett Avenue Shopping Centre: Grade B. A moderately littered site with the most obvious items being fast-food wrappers, disposable face masks and discarded umbrella. Chewing gum was prevalent throughout. One of the properties was somewhat run-down and presented poorly.

Park at Mallin Avenue: Grade A. A lovely expanse of grassland with mature trees and sports pitches. Clear and legible anti-litter and dog fouling notice on the fencing. It was excellent with regard to litter.

Holy Trinity National School: Grade C. While the main area of the school grounds was fine with regard to litter, there were heavy levels of cans and glass / plastic bottles along a strip of shrubbery at the road frontage.

Holy Family Church grounds, Mervue: Grade B. The built environment was very freshly presented with paving, railings etc in good order. The litter grade was brought down by the food related litter in the shrubbery and some alcohol cans.

Pearse Avenue: Grade B. The overall impression at this residential area was of well presented environment, let down by some food related litter.

Market Street: Grade A. A well-presented environment with no notable litter issues. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order.

Bon Secours Hospital: Grade A. This as an excellent site with regard to litter and overall presentation. The grounds were very well maintained, and bicycle parking area was particularly freshly presented. The whole area was a credit to those responsible for the maintenance of same, especially with all the challenges of a hospital environment at this time.

Lough Atalia Park: Grade B. Much of this area was good with regard to litter but it was let down by sweet papers, and significant graffiti along one wall. Clear and legible dog fouling / anti-litter signage attached to a lamp-post.

Lough Atalia Road Children's Playground: Grade A. A lovely facility which was exceptionally freshly presented and maintained. All aspects were in good order and there was a complete absence of litter throughout. Dog fouling signage '*Love Your Dog, RESPECT Your City, Bag It, Bin It*'.

Eyre Square Shopping Centre: Grade A. As with previous IBAL litter surveys, this was a top-ranking site. Not only was it excellent with regard to litter, the overall presentation was pristine.

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

Liam Mellows GAA Club: Grade A. All aspects of this facility were in excellent condition e.g., paving, grounds, parking, bicycle parking, signage etc. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed and this wasn't due to lack of activity as one of the courts was being used at time of survey.

Scout Den at Renmore: Grade A. There were no visible litter issues at this site. There was some broken paving around the building.

Galwegians Rugby Club: Grade C. Galwegians Rugby Club was somewhat of a mixed site. The area immediately surrounding the pitch and club-house was in good order, freshly presented and good with regard to litter. This didn't pertain to the whole site. A corner grass area had significant accumulations of not just casual litter but black sacks and other debris. Remainder of the perimeter areas was poor with regard to litter. Some tarmacadam waste had been deposited.

Renmore Community Centre: Grade A. A spotless and well maintained environment, with grass / trees in good order.

Abbeygate Street Upper: Grade A. There is lovely paving along the pedestrianised stretch of this shopping street. The overall impression created here was a very good one with regard to litter and presentation.

Market Street Car Park: Grade C. On first impressions, the car park was freshly presented with good car park surface and signage relating to car park charges. Closer inspection revealed that the perimeter was choked with heavy levels of a wide variety of food related litter – at the base of the trees and at the green fencing. Much of the litter was 'long-lie', indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time.

High Street: Grade B+. Very little effort is required for this to get the top litter grade – fast-food wrappers, disposable PPE litter and sweet papers took away from an otherwise well-presented environment.

Shop Street: Grade B+. Shop Street, like High Street, just missed getting the top litter grade. The street has been much enhanced by new road surface / paving. A little extra care with the safe disposal of face masks would help. Other litter items were food related.

Recycle Bank at Renmore: Grade B+. (at Rowan Avenue). The signage relating to the usage of the facility was clear and legible. The main items of note were wine bottle corks, caps / tops of jars / bottles and broken glass.

N83 Tuam Road Approach: Grade A. This road created a positive first impression of Galway City with a virtual absence of litter throughout the area surveyed. A short stretch of planted area was very well attended.

N338 Oranmore Approach Road: Grade C. A significant litter presence prevailed along this route - fast-food wrappers and coffee cup were the most obvious, along with lower levels of cans, plastic bags and bottles, both glass and plastic. Much of this litter was within the margins.

R338 Old Dublin Road: Grade B. A moderately littered road with casually discarded food related litter e.g., coffee cups, plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers, cans and sweet papers.

IDA Mervue Industrial Estate / Business & Technology Park: Grade A. IDA signage at entrances was freshly presented but another sign had so much graffiti it was almost impossible to see what was underneath (perhaps a 'clamping' illustration). The remainder of the industrial estate / business park was exceptionally well presented and maintained with all aspects in very good order e.g., interconnecting roads, grasslands, planted areas, bicycle parking etc.