

An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 1, 2021

Ballymun: 34th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Littered.

There has been a huge improvement in the overall presentation of Ballymun over the last year or so. Perhaps, the demolition of Ballymun Town Centre has contributed to this? Substantial planter boxes presented very well and added a welcome splash of colour, particularly in built up areas. The Lidl site was a brand new and attractively laid out environment, not just excellent with regard to litter but there was some lovely planting close to the entrance. A few of the sites just missed getting the top litter grade (Ballymun Road and Bring Bank at Taxi Rank). Balbutcher Lane is still subject to the discarding of bags of rubbish at each of the entrances to the former Ballymun Towers. An air of neglect prevailed at the residential area of Silogue Gardens but by far the most heavily littered site surveyed was the small street level car park, beside the site of the former Ballymun Town Centre.

Lidl Car Park: Grade A. This was an excellent site, not just in terms of litter, but the whole layout was very fresh and clean. There was some lovely planting close to the entrance and bicycle parking area / trolley bay were also spotless.

Balbutcher Lane: Grade C. To the casual observer, the main stretch of road / paving along Balbutcher Lane appeared relatively clean. However, closer inspection of the recessed entrances to the former Ballymun Towers revealed a different story. These were not just casually littered with loose items but very deliberate discarding of bags of rubbish and other miscellaneous items.

Bring Bank at Taxi Rank: Grade B+. A very brightly painted facility which presented well and would certainly encourage the general public to use it, compared to previous units in the immediate vicinity. If it wasn't for the copious number of plastic bags stuffed between, beneath and behind the units this would have got the top litter grade.

Silogue Gardens: Grade C+. An air of neglect prevailed throughout this residential area. Much of the litter was 'long-lie', indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time. Maintenance of the public areas was poor, weeds were very high, with much of the loose litter trapped in the weeds.

Ballymun Sports and Leisure Centre: Grade A. The brightly coloured railings surrounding the centre were a welcoming feature and presented well. There was a virtual absence of litter within the grounds. Signage relating to the centre was beginning to look a little tired and peeling away.

Ballymun Road: Grade B+. There were plenty of street bins along the shop side of the road and these were in good condition. Colourful planter boxes/ ornamental trees and Traffic Light Box Art at the junction of Glasnevin Avenue were a welcome addition in this built-up area. Food related litter items along the grassy median and on the side of the road opposite to the shops prevented it getting the top litter grade. A general observation with regard to dog fouling notices - they tended to be placed quite high on poles and therefore may be missed by the general public. Overall, a much improved site on 2020 visits.

R108 Approach to Ballymun (from M50): Grade B. There was a notable litter presence along both sides of this road – much of it was food related. Care needs to be taken that this doesn't deteriorate further.

Axis / Ballymun Civic Centre: Grade A. An attractively laid out environment with plenty of seating and children's games painted on the tarmac. The area was further enhanced by ornamental trees and colourful planter boxes. The entrance to Ballymun Civic Centre was spotless. The provision of cigarette butt units at the seating (in front of Axis centre) could help prevent a build-up of cigarette butts on the ground beneath.

Car Park beside site of former Ballymun Town Centre: Grade D. (please note, this is not the pay & display car park across from SuperValu). The signage at the entrance to this small street level car park was broken up, the writing illegible. This small site was by far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Ballymun - the entire perimeter was strewn with piles of heavy levels of a wide range of litter. Much of the litter was 'long-lie'. The whole area presented very poorly.

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Gateway Crescent: Grace C. This residential area was not so much casually littered (apart from significant levels of cigarette butts) but subject to the very casual discarding of larger miscellaneous items e.g., a broken chair (close to the road), a dismantled vacuum cleaner and a fridge. And yet, some parts of the footpath were quite clean.