

Cork City Centre: 31st out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Littered.

Cork City has been a strong performer for a number of years but there was a definite slide in the performance this time around. Many of the poorer ranking sites in 2020 have failed to show any or much improvement e.g., Commons Road / Lower John Street / St. Patrick's Quay and Derelict site - Carmelite Place, Western Road. With so many seriously littered / neglected sites, it does impact on Cork's overall ranking. Experience shows that heavily littered / neglected sites tend to attract more litter and abuse. Top ranking sites included Harley's Street (brought to life by attractive paving, colourful wall painting, abundant planting and outdoor dining), Princes Street (where a 'one-way' pedestrianisation is operating and wall painting brought the narrow street to life), Kennedy Park (a lovely park environment which wasn't just good with regard to litter but presented very well), St Patrick's Street (excellent streetscape) and Recycle Facility at Wilton Shopping Centre (a very freshly presented and maintained facility).

Sarsfield Roundabout and Environs: Grade C+. While the paving was generally clear, the base of the shrubbery and behind the fencing told a different story. There was a very definite litter presence, much of it food related and long-lie, indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time. It was particularly evident on the city / Wilton side.

Wilton Road: Grade C. A mixed site in terms of litter, the side exiting the city was clear, as was the immediate front of the ESB and SAM African Missions. However, along other stretches there were heavy levels of litter with accumulations at the planted areas, near Wilton Shopping Centre.

Recycle Facility at Wilton Shopping Centre: Grade A. All was in good order at this freshly presented 'Bring' Facility. Due to the configuration of the bin units, there was no opportunity for the stuffing of items behind the units, as can frequently happen.

Summerstown Road: Grade B. This residential area would have got the top litter grade if it wasn't for the food related litter items at the front, adjacent to Glasheen Road. As the litter hadn't been removed before the grass cutting the result is 'chopped up' litter. Street bin, located beside the road signage, was in very good condition.

Lee Fields: Grade B. There were moderate levels of litter along this riverside environment. Cigarette butts were particularly pronounced in the car parking area and there was a mix of food and alcohol related litter scattered about, with notable levels of face masks.

Derelict site – Carrigrohane Road: Grade C. Site with planning permission for 'Headway Ireland CLC' – the area to the front of the gates and immediately behind the low wall was heavily littered with all manner of litter. Background environmental indicators were poor - significant graffiti, pronounced weeds on the path, untended grass area etc. Care needs to be taken that this area doesn't deteriorate further.

Derelict site - Carmelite Place, Western Road: Grade C. There has been little improvement since this site was visited in 2020. This is a real eyesore. Planning application notice related to March 2020 and clearly there has been minimal maintenance in the interim. Not only were there heavy levels of a wide variety of litter, the whole site presented very poorly.

Western Road: Grade B. A moderately littered route with items most obvious along the stretch with the terraced houses and at the traffic lights. Litter items weren't so apparent on the footpath but had been brushed from the footpath to the side of the road. The most obvious items were cigarette butts, face masks, plastic ties on poles and mineral cans, with lower levels of alcohol cans and food related litter.

Dyke Parade: Grade C. The Tyndall Institute and immediate environs were clear of litter. However, much of the road presented poorly with many individual buildings with litter accumulations. Many of these were 'For Sale' / 'To Rent'. There were notable levels of food and alcohol related litter and plastic ties on poles. Pronounced graffiti on red brick wall of Mardyke Hall Student Accommodation.

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Grand Parade: Grade B. Colourful buildings and summer planting presented well along Grand Parade. Much of the litter was small and consistent, but enough to encourage fighting between two crows. Care needs to be taken at No. 47 where construction work is taking place that it doesn't become a magnet for litter.

St. Patrick's Street: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along this main shopping thoroughfare. The streetscape was excellent with attractive paving, ornamental trees, bicycle parking, street bins etc. The flower boxes were not as fresh as they could be, a feature observed at many of the sites surveyed in Cork city.

Cork Bus Station: Grade B. Cigarette butts were particularly pronounced at the bus station, with lower levels of a variety of face masks and a variety of food related items. The dead flowers in the large planter box looked rather sad.

St. Patrick's Quay: Grade C. This site was flagged in IBAL 2020 and there has been no improvement. The area behind the temporary barrier wasn't just poorly maintained but there were heavy levels of food and alcohol related litter. The latter, in particular, had gathered in a pile in the corner. The area was also characterised by graffiti and poorly presented planted areas.

Harley's Street: Grade A. A short, narrow pedestrianised laneway which has been brought to life by attractive paving, colourful wall painting, food trucks, outdoor dining tables and abundant planting – it was excellent with regard to litter. Provision has been made to separate waste into three different containers.

Lower John Street: Grade C. Another site which was poor in 2020 and has seen little change in 2021. One building was brightly painted and looked great but this was cheek by jowl with an adjoining property which was boarded up and covered in graffiti. Bags of domestic rubbish were a problem in one location and dog fouling was very significant.

Roman Street: Grade B. Some improvement was noted along this residential road but there is still a very definite litter issue. Bags of domestic rubbish had been left at the base of the overflowing street bin – the latter is designed to prevent the disposal of bags of rubbish.

John Philpott Curran Street: Grade A. The attractive paving and signage create an excellent impression along this narrow street. It presented very well and was good with regard to litter.

North Main Street: Grade B. The streetscape was generally in good order with paving, planting, trees and street bins presenting well. There was no one litter item which was particularly pronounced, just a mix of food related items, face masks and alcohol cans.

Princes Street: Grade A. A 'one-way' pedestrian system was operating along Princes Street which was reconfigured to accommodate outdoor dining along the main thoroughfare. Walls had been brightly painted and the overall presentation and maintenance was excellent.

Drinan Street: Grade A. Clearly a careful eye has been kept on the adjoining construction site as there was no litter directly associated with same. The remainder of the street was clean and clear.

Kennedy's Quay: Grade C. On first impression, the main thoroughfare was reasonably clean. But the same couldn't be said for areas behind railings and in the many derelict properties. Based on the accumulations of alcohol related litter, the signage '*It's an offence to drink alcohol in public places*' has clearly been flouted, Ditto for the 'Port of Cork' signage '*Illegal Dumping is Prohibited CCTV in Operation, If you can see this Sign, we can see you and our actions are being recorded*' etc.

Kennedy Park: Grade A. This small public park environment was excellent with regard to litter and all aspects of the area surveyed were in good order e.g., seating, bicycle parking, paving etc.

Commons Road: Grade C. Another site which has seen little / no change since 2020. As well as scattered litter along the road there was an accumulation at grassy area behind broken fence (close to

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the Circle K station) and the bus stop opposite Dulux. A more thorough approach to cleaning could certainly help. Experience often shows that littered sites tend to attract more litter.

N40: Grade C (from Junction 6 to Junction 10). The most obvious litter items were mineral cans, fast-food wrappers, plastic bags, plastic bottles and coffee cups, with lower levels of other food related items. It was most pronounced around Junction 10 in both directions and east direction between Junctions 6 and 7 and Junctions 8 and 9.

Dunkettle Interchange: Grade A. There were no visible litter issues at this busy interchange. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the construction that is taking place.