

**Dublin City Centre: 36<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Littered.**

There was a notable deterioration in cleanliness in Dublin City. The top-ranking sites were not just good with regard to litter but overall presentation and maintenance e.g., Grafton Street, St. Stephens Green Park, O'Connell Street, Temple Bar and tourist attractions at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Christchurch Cathedral and Dublin Castle. However, at the other end of the spectrum there were many many sites which were not just littered but subject to dumping, neglect and abuse. There was no improvement at a number of sites which scored very poorly in previous IBAL surveys e.g. Werbergh Street Car Park, Loftus Lane, Miscellaneous site on Lamb Alley, Car Park at the corner of Mary's Lane & St. Michan's Street, Parnell Square West basements, a derelict site on Middle Abbey Street, Derelict Wasteground at Mount Brown (Kilmainham). There was a marginal improvement at Henrietta Place, though it was still littered.

**St Stephen's Green: Grade A.** An exceptionally clean and tidy park environment which has been very well tended. New, solar powered, litter bins have been installed since 2020 – this will hopefully resolve the issue of seagulls scavenging at the previous open top ones. Perhaps when considering litter bins, the provision of separate receptacles for the separating / recycling of waste could be considered for a park that flies the Green Flag. There was plenty of historical and visitor information throughout. Overall, a beautiful park environment which was meticulously maintained.

**Grafton Street: Grade A.** Grafton Street was spotless. This is no mean feat, with upwards of a dozen closed down / vacant / 'To Let' premises – clearly a very close eye is these as there was no litter directly associated with them. The pedestrianised paving surface was very fresh in appearance. The roll out of the yellow recycle bins was a great addition in 2020 – this is something that could so easily be implemented throughout the country.

**Werburgh Street Car Park: Grade D.** A 'Pay & Display' street level car park where somebody is claiming an income. There were exceptionally high levels of litter around the perimeter and particularly at the base of the heavily weeded area. Much of the litter was 'long-lie' indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time. Graffiti was pronounced and car park surface was very poor throughout

**Car Park at the corner of Mary's Lane & St. Michan's Street: Grade D.** This newly presented car park was riddled with all manner of food and alcohol related litter throughout. Piles and piles of plastic bottles and cans had gathered in several separate locations. It was in a very poor state.

**O'Connell Street, Upper & Lower: Grade A.** An excellent environment in terms of streetscape and overall maintenance. The paving was very fresh, tree planting looked well, street bins were plentiful and in good condition and visitor information notices were in well displayed. Despite many opportunities for 'outdoor dining' O'Connell Street was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

**Henrietta Place: Grade C+.** There was a modicum of improvement from Grade D status in 2020 but not enough to shift it any higher. The overall impression was still quite a poor one, with grubbiness and graffiti prevailing.

**New Street North: Grade B.** Certainly, there was some improvement at New Street but there was still a definite litter presence at the junction with Church Street and Beresford Street. The road signage at a corner house was so old that it was worn away, illegible.

**Old Cabra Road: Grade A.** The overall impression created along this road was a positive one, enhanced with nicely planted floral displays throughout. There were no visible litter issues.

**Chapelizod By Pass: Grade A.** Road surface, markings and signage were in good order along this route. Grass verges, tree planting along the centre looked well. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

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

**Loftus Lane: Grade D.** No change since IBAL 2020 visits. A recessed area had heavy accumulations of a wide variety of food and alcohol related litter and clothing on the ground and sleeping bag thrown over a steel gate. Cans and plastic bottles had been stuffed behind an iron grille over a window.

**Saint Patrick's Cathedral: Grade A.** The grounds of and the area immediately outside this historic site were in excellent condition. There was a complete absence of litter throughout. Colourful flowering adorned the entrance and visitor information signage was in very good condition.

**Green Street / Great Britain Street: Grade C.** This was a mixed site in terms of presentation. The recently configure outdoor deck area, surrounded by planting, looked very well. However, there was still a very obvious litter presence on the kerbs at the parking areas and on the pavement outside the courthouse. There was a mix of food and alcohol related litter, combined with cigarette butts. Perhaps the provision of more street bins / cigarette butt disposal units could make a difference here.

**Derelict site, Lamb Alley: Grade D.** There wasn't just a carpet of alcohol cans, it was a mountain that lay in the basement of this derelict red brick building. It has been allowed to fall into a terrible state of repair and this has been taken advantage of. The abuse will continue if the owners continue to neglect it. Hence, there has been no improvement since previous IBAL visits.

**M50, from N3 entrance throughout the toll to N81 turnoff: Grade A.** A very clean and tidy impression was created travelling along this busy route.

**Castle Street / Christchurch Place: Grade B.** A moderately littered environment with coffee cups, sweet papers, mineral cans very much in evidence, and lower levels of cigarette butts and fast-food wrappers. It is quite unusual to see the 'solar belly' style of bin overflowing. Broken cigarette butt unit presented poorly.

**Christchurch Cathedral Grounds: Grade A.** The grounds and the area immediately outside were very good with regard to litter. Seating, planting, signage were in good condition and 'bee friendly' area was suitably managed.

**Dublinia: Grade C.** No change to the litter grade since IBAL 2020. A grille has been placed over the basement area (presumably to prevent items from gathering / being thrown over the railings). Food and alcohol related litter had gathered on the grille.

**Junction of South William Street and Wicklow Street: Grade A.** An excellent impression was created at this busy city centre environment. Abundant and colourful flower boxes at a corner premises presented very well. Despite plenty of opportunities for 'outdoor dining' the area was spotless.

**Temple Bar: Grade A.** An excellent grade for such a heavily trafficked environment. Apart from some bottle caps and cigarette butts lodged within the cobbles, there was a complete absence of litter throughout. Some of the individual properties were brightly painted, bicycle parking was freshly presented, and street bins were in good order, albeit with some flyposting. 'The Temple Bar' pub has shown how you can actually have an attractive cigarette butt disposal feature.

**Parnell Square West - Basements: Grade D.** It wasn't just casual litter in the basement but an accumulation of other miscellaneous items e.g., black sacks of rubbish, wooden pallets and builder's rubble. Many of the surfaces were heavily graffitied, including the very fine silver street lamps. There was no improvement here on 2020 visits.

**Derelict site on Middle Abbey Street: Grade D.** Where does responsibility for this site lie? It has fallen into a terrible state of dereliction and hence has been abused. As well as the heavy levels of a wide range of alcohol and food related litter, there were large miscellaneous items e.g., broken wooden hoarding, sleeping bags etc.

**Derelict Wasteground at Mount Brown / Kilmainham: Grade D.** Dumping of industrial waste has taken place on a monumental scale at this site. Pieces of wood, floor boards, oil canisters were just some of the items spread over a large site. Perhaps the 'Sold' signage offers some glimmer of hope in this otherwise abused and neglected site.

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

**Dublin Castle - grounds: Grade A.** An excellent environment in terms of overall presentation and litter. Visitor information signage was in very good order, paving, bollards, water feature etc. were all in very good condition. This extensive site is a credit to those responsible for the maintenance.

**Usher's Quay: Grade B.** The overall impression was a somewhat littered environment. Much of the litter was food related e.g., coffee cups, plastic bottles, and sweet wrappers but dog fouling was also present. Some of the litter was behind railings at the apartments next to Ushers Quay 24-hour petrol station.