

Galway City Centre: 19th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

In contrast to most of our main city centres, this was a very strong performance for Galway City, with no very heavily littered sites. Top-ranking sites included NUIG Campus (frequently a very good site), Cathedral Car Park, Canal Walk – Nun’s Island to Millennium Park, IDA Galway Business Park and St. Nicholas Church Environs – these were not just good regarding litter but very well presented and maintained. Disappointingly, Eyre Square was littered.

GMIT North Campus: Grade B+. There was a ‘Clean Air Campus, No Smoking, No Vaping’ signage on the cigarette butt unit, placed at the entrance and again within the campus there was substantial signage relating to same. The overall presentation of the campus as very good with planted areas, grass, paving, bicycle parking, bins etc. in good order. With a little extra effort, this could easily be a top-ranking site.

R338 Oranmore Approach Road: Grade B. Much of this route presented well with road surface, markings and signage in good order. It was impossible to ignore the food related litter (e.g., coffee cups, plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers, sweet papers) and other miscellaneous items e.g., plastic netting and old bag of cement – perhaps the latter was associated with building site nearby?

Galwegians Rugby Club: Grade B. On first impressions this site seemed very clean. Further investigations revealed a very definite litter presence around the perimeter of the grounds, all manner of food related items, some face masks and alcohol cans. This took away from an otherwise well presented environment.

Forster Street: Grade B+. Forster Street was generally a very clean and tidy street but there was a notable litter presence at an older and closed looking building. Care needs to be taken that this particular location doesn’t attract more litter.

Eyre Square: Grade C+. The grass and planted areas of Eyre Square looked very well and paving, play equipment, bins etc. were in good order. Food and alcohol related litter were very visible, particularly on the grass. Based on the number of bottle tops it would seem that Eyre Square was being used for outdoor drinking. A more thorough approach to cleaning is required.

William Street: Grade B+. Not much effort is required for this shopping street to get the top litter grade – cigarette butts, fast-food wrappers and sweet papers, took away from an otherwise well presented streetscape.

St. Nicholas Church Environs: Grade A. This was an excellent site with regard to litter and overall presentation.

Market Street Car Park: Grade C+. The main surface area of the car park was generally quite clean, but it was the litter all around the perimeter and behind the security fencing at one end which brought down the litter grade. A wide variety of food and alcohol related items were present, along with cigarette butts / cartons and face masks. There was notable litter in the heaving weeded area beside the fencing.

Shop Street: Grade B+. The overall streetscape was in good order, with small amounts of fast-food wrappers, sweet papers, cigarette related litter and face masks.

Mainguard Street: Grade B+. Paving, street bins, shop fronts etc. were in very good order but the street signage on the yellow building was quite old / barely legible. The casually discarded black bag beside the street bin took away from an otherwise top-ranking site.

St. Patrick’s Primary School: Grade A. All was in good order with regard to litter at this site. The area was enhanced by colourful planting and mural.

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

Clothing Bank, Mill Street Car Park: Grade B. The overall impression in the area of the clothing bank and surrounding car park was littered and somewhat unkempt, particularly around the perimeter. As well as food related items, there was some cardboard and face masks.

Cathedral Car Park: Grade A. An exceptionally clean and tidy car park environment – it was spotless throughout.

Canal Walk – Nun’s Island to Millennium Park: Grade A. A lovely waterside amenity which presented well and was virtually litter free. Wooden seating was in good order. There was some graffiti on the street bins.

Millennium Park: Grade B. Large swathes of grass had been planted with lovely wildflowers, to great effect. ‘Love Your Dog, Respect Your City, Bag It, Bin It’ facility was in good order, as was the new seating and large planter boxes. Some casually discarded litter took away from an otherwise very well presented and maintained environment.

NUIG Campus: Grade A. (University Road, South Campus) Wonderful grounds have been lovingly tended and maintained. Grass, colourful planting, signage, seating, paving, bins etc. were all in very good condition. It was spotless throughout.

Canal Walk – Salmon Weir to O’Brien’s Bridge: Grade B. As well as the typical food related items, dog fouling was very much in evidence. An attractive sign ‘Salmon Weir Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge’ had been defaced and there were a couple of incidents of graffiti on the ground.

Board Walk – Bruach na Coiribe to bridge at Spanish Arch: Grade B+. While there was minimal litter along this road, there was a very deliberate disregard for some signage. A litter awareness notice had been completely defaced by graffiti and there were several other incidents of graffiti on various buildings and bins in the immediate area. A dog fouling notice had also been damaged.

Spanish Arch: Grade B+. The overall presentation at Spanish Arch was a good one, with paving and seating looking very well. Large bins with clear ‘litter awareness’ signage were in good order. Recently discarded litter items included alcohol bottles and some food related items with older bottle tops lodged within the grass.

Eyre Square Shopping Centre: Grade A. This site has regularly been a top-ranking site in previous IBAL surveys – things were no different this time around. It was spotless throughout.

White Strand Road: Grade A. There were no litter issues at this quiet, residential area.

R336 Approach: Grade A. (from Prom at Roundabout at Threadneedle Road out to junction at R337 Bothar Bearná). A fresh and welcoming approach with a virtual absence of litter throughout. Road surface, markings and signage were in good order.

Thomas Hynes Road: Grade A. (from junction with N59 in to roundabout) This was an excellent road in terms of overall presentation and first impression of Galway City. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order e.g., paving, grass, planting etc.

IDA Galway Business Park: Grade A. An exceptionally well cared for environment, not just excellent with regard to litter but planted areas / grass etc. were in very good order.

Holy Trinity National School / Radharc na Mara: Grade C. The entrance and main grounds of the school were fine with regard to litter but the litter in the shrubbery brought down the litter grade – heavy levels of a wide variety of food related items and alcohol cans were present.