

Limerick City Centre: 30th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Littered.

In common with other city centres, Limerick has deteriorated over the past year, with 5 very heavily littered sites. The riverside environments within the city deserve a special mention, they are almost all top ranking. Clancy Strand / George's Quay / Honan's Quay were exceptionally well presented and maintained environments. While The Bishop's Quay was excellent in terms of presentation, it didn't get the top litter grade due to the significant accumulation of cigarette butts at the base of seating areas. This wasn't the only site to be downgraded due to very pronounced cigarette butts. Others included Mount Kenneth Place, Car Parking area at Radio House / adjacent apartments on Dock Road and Henry Street. This is something that can be very easily addressed by the provision of dedicated signage and the facilities for the disposal of same. Some basements along Mallow Street and Cecil Street weren't just casually littered but subject to abuse and dumping. Wasteground on laneway opposite Osmington Terrace has suffered long term abuse and neglect – where does responsibility for this site lie? The same question could be asked of a miscellaneous area opposite the entrance to Cruise's Street Car park which was in a very poor shape.

Nicholas Street and adjoining approaches: Grade A. Overall, a clean and welcoming environment, with fresh paving along some stretches creating a good impression. Care needs to be taken at Athlunkyard Street to ensure that litter doesn't build up behind the grid on the pavement.

Colbert Train and Bus Station: Grade C+. The built environment to the front of the station presented very well with attractive paving, seating and planting. This area was let down by both sporadic litter and notable amounts at the steps with yellow railings and the bicycle parking area. There were accumulations of cigarette butts on the kerbs at the bus station approach. Perhaps the installation of cigarette butt notices, combined with wide spread cigarette butt units could help here? As well as food related litter, face-masks were very obvious.

William Street: Grade A. A significantly improved site with regard to litter. Paving was fresh, street bins and bicycle parking were in very good condition. This shows that with a little extra care and attention a busy shopping street can get the top litter grade.

The Bishop's Quay: Grade B+. Memorial to the merchant seamen who lost their lives and immediate environment was excellent with regard to litter. Street bins, seating, planting, paving etc. were in excellent condition. If it wasn't for the accumulations of cigarette butts at the base of the seating this would have been a top-ranking site. Perhaps the installation of cigarette butt units at the seating areas could address this issue?

Mount Kenneth Place: Grade B. A very casual attitude to the disposal of cigarette butts was in evidence here. If it wasn't for the cigarette butts this would have got a higher litter grade.

Honan's Quay: Grade A. The whole impression along Honan's Quay was of a very freshly presented environment with paving, railings, signage, planting, seating, sculpture etc. in excellent condition. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

Miscellaneous site on Lower Mallow Street: Grade D. (basement of No. 6). There were huge quantities in the basement of this site. Much of it was 'long-lie' indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time. As well as casually discarded food and alcohol related litter, household rubbish had been dumped. This site needs urgent attention.

King John's Castle: Grade A. As with many previous IBAL litter surveys, this was a top-ranking site. The grass, paving, seating, planting etc. were in excellent condition. Despite plenty of 'outdoor dining' the whole area was spotless.

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Basements along Cecil Street: Grade D. The street level of Cecil Street was fine with regard to litter but some of the basements which require attention. It wasn't just typical food related litter, but clothing items had also been discarded.

Cruises Street: Grade A. A clean and tidy impression was created along this shopping street. Colourful hanging baskets added a welcome splash of colour. The ground at the base of some street bins was grubby but not littered.

Bedford Row: Grade A. Attractive streetscape with stone seating, ornamental trees, outdoor dining facilities and colourful planter boxes. While Bedford Row was very good with regard to litter, some of the paving appeared stained / grubby.

Grounds at Hunt Museum: Grade A. Beautifully landscaped grounds have been well presented and maintained. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed. Works taking place close by didn't impact in any negative way on the litter situation.

Lower Mallow Street: Grade B+. (from Henry Street junction to O'Connell Street junction). With a little extra effort this could easily be a top-ranking site. Significant accumulations of cigarette butts and other minor food related items took away from an otherwise well presented environment.

M7 – from Exit 28 Castletroy to Exit 29 Ballysimon: Grade B+. Road surface, markings and signage were in very good condition and grass had recently been cut. Casually discarded coffee cups, plastic bottles, cans and fast-food wrappers took away from what could be a top-ranking site.

Charlotte Quay: Grade A. This approach road created an excellent first impression of the city. Despite plenty of vehicular traffic, there were no significant litter issues of note.

Wasteground on laneway opposite Osmington Terrace: Grade D. (connecting High Road to Thomandgate). This site has suffered from long term abuse and neglect. As well as heavy accumulations of alcohol related litter, there was an abundance of other household items. Efforts to disguise what exists behind the railings with boarding, have failed. Where does responsibility for this site lie?

Miscellaneous area opposite entrance to Cruises Street Car Park: Grade D. A long-term build-up of not just litter but other miscellaneous items has resulted in a very poor site indeed. The whole environment presents very poorly and will only deteriorate further if not addressed.

O'Connell Street: Grade C. (from Cecil Street junction to Thomas Street junction). The overall impression along this stretch was littered one with heavy accumulations of food related items e.g., fast-food wrappers and sweet papers and cigarette butts. Litter was most pronounced at the supermarket seating area and outside fast-food restaurants, right beside a street bin. A very casual attitude to litter has prevailed here.

Dock Road Bottle and Clothing: Grade C+. On first impression all seemed in good order, with new signage relating to the facility. Further exploration revealed items stuffed to the rear of the units. Colourful posters in the immediate environment highlighting litter with 'The Only cure for Litter is ..You' and 'Bin your Butt' have been erected.

Car Parking area at Radio House / adjacent apartments on Dock Road: Grade B. One of the many sites in Limerick City which was brought down by the very heavy levels of cigarette butts. This is something that can be so easily addressed by signage and dedicated facilities for the disposal of same.

Little Ellen Street: Grade B+. The area surrounding bars / restaurants were tidy in the main. Alcohol / food related litter and significant levels of cigarette butts brought down the litter grade.

George's Quay: Grade A. Another excellent riverside environment within Limerick City. It is great to see that the investment in the built environment is being respected by the users of same. There were no litter issues, despite plenty of activity and some outdoor dining.

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Thomondgate: Grade D. This wasn't just a littered environment but subject to neglect and abuse – evidence of burnt items and dumping.

Clancy Strand: Grade A. The boardwalk and immediate environment created an excellent impression, with dog fouling notices were placed by the wooden seating. Paving, visitor information signage, ornamental trees, seating, street bins etc. were in very good condition. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

Henry Street: Grade B (from Lower Mallow Street junction to Cecil Steet Lower). Cigarette butts dominated the overall impression along this stretch of road. There were particularly obvious at close to the parking area outside the Garda Station and all along the kerbs down as far as the bus stop.