

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

Mahon: 32nd out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Littered.

There has been little change in Mahon since the previous survey. It was great to see the community initiative at Walkway next to Estuary on Jacob's Island. A change for the better was noted at Car Park at Lakelands – while still poorly presented there were no visible litter issues of note. Ave de Rennes has improved in terms of general presentation, and this appears to be reflected in a somewhat improved litter situation. Mahon continues to suffer from a number of heavily littered sites. By far the most heavily littered was the pedestrian link from Ringmahon Road to Aldi – it would seem that only superficial cleaning is taking place as there were heavy accumulations of alcohol related litter at the base of the shrubbery.

Ave de Rennes: Grade B. The overall presentation of this road was much improved with road surface / markings and bicycle parking looking very fresh. Much of the road was clear of litter but it was impossible to ignore the food and alcohol related litter in some areas. Broken glass bottles were a health hazard and plastic ties were obvious.

Lakeland Crescent: Grade C. The most obvious litter items were fast-food wrappers and sweet papers with lower levels of a wide variety of other litter items. Much of it was behind the green railings – perhaps a more thorough approach to cleaning could address this.

Car Park at Lakelands: Grade A. A big improvement was noted at this site. While the background environmental indicators presented poorly (boarded up premises, potholes, overgrown weeds etc.) there were no major litter issues. The shiny new clothing bank certainly add some freshness in an otherwise grey environment

Open Space off Ringmahon Road: Grade C. (From Junction with Castle Park and Ringmahon AFC). The residential side of the road was not surveyed. The area surrounding the open space presented poorly with heavy levels of overgrowth and significant litter within the brambles and adjoining road on the river side of the road. There was a mix of food and alcohol related litter and cigarette butts.

Pedestrian link from Ringmahon Road to Aldi: Grade D. This was by far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Mahon. It would seem that only superficial cleaning is taking place along the pathway as this was clear but heavy accumulations of alcohol related, (beer cans and bottles of spirits), had gathered at the base of the shrubbery. These weren't just limited to one isolated area but several separate accumulations.

Tesco Car Park: Grade A. This was a very freshly presented car park and excellent with regard to litter.

Walkway next to Estuary on Jacob's Island: Grade A. This site was so deserving of the top litter grade. There is clearly a great community effort and pride in the area, based on the notices about regular community clean ups, and the condition of the facilities e.g., dog fouling bins, seating, signage etc. A credit to those involved in same.

Joe McHugh Park: Grade A. There was a complete absence of litter at this small, open, semi-maintained park space.

R852 Approach (Mahon Retail Park and offices of Telus International): Grade C+. The built environment was exceptionally freshly presented (e.g., offices / Mahon Point Retail Park) and road surface / signage / markings were in very good order. However, the same level of maintenance doesn't pertain to the whole environment - the litter issues arise in several separate locations: broken footpath, steel fencing area, behind electricity box, in greenery opposite Telus International and Bus stop No. 8148.

Skehard Road: Grade B. (From CSO to Inchera Park) The overall presentation and maintenance of Skehard Road was good, but litter was obvious throughout. There was a wide variety of scattered food related items with a concentration behind the Ringmahon CK30 Gas Networks box.