

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

Sligo: 28th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered.

Three heavily littered sites resulted in Sligo losing its Clean status. Two of the approach roads (N15 Donegal and R286 Dromahair) were both very much deserving of the top litter grade, as was Glenview Football Club / O'Boyle Park and O'Connell Street – the latter was particularly well presented and maintained with all aspects in very good condition e.g., paving, street bins, hanging baskets, ornamental trees etc.. Two sites were brought down not by casual litter but dumping of rubbish - Recycle Centre, Connaughton Road and the residential area of City View. By far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Sligo was the University Hospital grounds – it didn't get into this state overnight - it was flagged in IBAL 2020. Heavy levels of all manner of food related litter, used nappies and other miscellaneous items were found throughout the grounds, a mix of recent and long-lie, the latter indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time.

N15 Donegal Approach Road: Grade A. An exceptionally freshly presented and maintained route into Sligo. Road surface, markings and signage were in very good order, and it was excellent with regard to litter.

N16 Enniskillen Approach Road: Grade B. There was some improvement compared to the IBAL 2020 visit. While much of the road presented very well, it was impossible to ignore the food and alcohol related litter along some parts of the road.

R286 Dromahair Approach Road: Grade A. The overall impression created along this road was generally a clean and tidy one. A boarded-up house presented poorly but there was no major litter issue associated with it.

Elm Park: Grade B+. (off Michael A Hargadon Road) This residential area just missed getting the top litter grade. Occasional food related items, some discarded pieces wood and another miscellaneous item took away from an otherwise well presented and maintained environment.

University Hospital Grounds: Grade D. This site was poor in IBAL 2020 visit, and the litter situation has deteriorated further in 2021. The only area of the grounds visible from the outside that was litter free was at the Emergency Department. The remainder of the grounds had heavy levels of a wide variety of food related litter, face masks, used nappies, various plastic mouldings. A mix of recent and long-lie litter indicate a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time. It was particularly pronounced at the base of fencing, close to low lying shrubbery, within the planted areas, on the grass, at the base of wooden structure etc.

Recycle Centre, Connaughton Road: Grade C+. Another site which scored poorly in IBAL 2020, there has been little improvement. On first impressions, this small facility presented well but that was before the black sacks of dumped items became apparent. Items had also been stuffed between the units. The 'No Dumping CCTV in Operation' signage is clearly not a deterrent.

City View: Grade C+. An attractively laid out residential environment was badly let down by the discarding of rubbish in the shrubbery area. The remainder of the site was very good.

Glenview Football Club / O'Boyle Park: Grade A. A large expanse of green space with outdoor exercise equipment, all appeared to be in good condition. The whole area was excellent with regard to litter. Pink and white hydrangea by the ramp looked great and seating, bins, dog fouling facility were in very good order.

O'Connell Street: Grade A. The streetscape looked very well with attractive paving, ornamental trees, litter bins, hanging baskets etc. in very good order. The overall impression was of a freshly presented street which was very good with regard to litter.

Johnston Court Shopping Centre: Grade A. A pristine shopping centre environment which was spotless throughout.