

Ballymun: 36th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Littered

Two litter blackspots saw Ballymun slip on its previous showing. It is great to see the 'Tidy Towns' presence in the form of 'planter boxes' along the R108 and closer to the town centre, along with the side window display of SuperValu. 'No Butts' ashtrays were spotted outside SuperValu, Centra and the Travel Lodge Hotel. Balbutcher Lane was brought down by the significant levels of dumping at the various gate entrances to the former 'towers'. There was no change to the litter at street level car park beside former Ballymun Town Centre. The residential area of Silloge Gardens had been heavily littered in previous surveys – not so this time around.

R108 from M50: Grade B. There was a definite litter presence in both directions. The majority of it was food related and to be seen along the central median. A welcome feature was the 'Tidy Towns' planter box.

Street Level Car Park beside former Ballymun Town Centre: Grade D. (This is not the 'pay and display' car park). There is no signage at the entrance. Monumental amounts of 'long-lie' litter lined the base of the low wall surrounding this car park. There was no improvement since this was surveyed in IBAL Survey 1, 2021. Where does responsibility for this site lie?

Ballymun Library: Grade A. All elements of this facility were well presented e.g. planting, bicycle parking, wooden seating, signage etc. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

Rear of Ballymun Sports and Leisure Centre: Grade C. The area to the rear of this facility was heavily littered (mostly loose food related / fast-food items and plastic wrapping). The litter continued along the base of the colourful railings along the side of the facility, a mix of alcohol bottles and coffee cups.

Balbutcher Lane: Grade D. To the casual observer driving through, the main stretch of Balbutcher Lane seemed fine. However, all was far from fine at the various gate entrances to the former towers – these were not just casually littered but subject to significant dumping. Bags of rubbish, along with other miscellaneous household items were thrown over the gates and 'hidden' behind the plastic boulders. There only appeared to be one 'anti-dumping' sign at one of these entrances.

Ballymun Road: Grade B. A long stretch of road, much of it clear of litter. Ballymun Tidy Towns planter boxes were a lovely feature along the central median and there were plenty of dog fouling notices along both sides of the road. Street bins and signage were in good order. The main litter items were food and alcohol related, along with notable amounts of disposable face masks.

Bring Facility, Shangan Road: Grade C+. This small, on-street, facility presented poorly. While the bin units were in good condition, there were high levels of general litter on top of them and at the base. Unlike most other Bring / Recycle facilities, the discarded items were not related to recycling but mostly food related, including the discarding of food, as evidenced by the scavenging birds.

Lid Car Park: Grade A. An exceptionally freshly presented and maintained car park environment. The large flower bed in front of the entrance looked very well. Trolley bay, bicycle parking, paving etc were in excellent condition – the car park was spotless throughout.

Silloge Gardens: Grade A. This residential area had been a heavily littered site in a couple of previous IBAL surveys – not so this time around.

Gateway Crescent: Grade B. Some of this residential street was fine but there were significant levels of cigarette butts directly outside the barber premises and some discarded miscellaneous items at the junction with Ballymun Road.