

Cork City Centre: 32nd out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Littered

There were just five top ranking sites out of a total of 25 surveyed in Cork City – this impacted the overall ranking. If some of the moderately littered sites could be improved, this would raise the city's ranking significantly. Some sites which were noted in previous surveys have shown no / little improvement – examples included N20 Commons Road, Dyke Road and Kennedy Quay. Thomas Davis Street was one of the most heavily littered sites surveyed – a building site and No. 23 harboured heavy levels of a wide variety of litter. The other litter blackspot was Carmelite Place, Western Road. Sites showing some improvement included Sarsfield Road Roundabout, 'Headways' Carrigrohane Road and Wilton Road, though they were still moderately littered. The N40, J6 to J10 showed huge improvements, going from a seriously littered site to the top litter grade.

Blackpool Park: Grade B+. A freshly presented retail park with car park surface, paving, flower beds, bollards etc. in good condition. Some areas were clear of litter. With a little extra effort, particularly on behalf of smokers and those chewing gum, this could be a top-ranking site. Other items included coffee cups and sweet wrappers.

Park in Blackpool: Grade A. This lovely small park has been very well presented and maintained, with attractive natural planting. Apart from some broken alcohol bottles it was spotless throughout. There was some graffiti on the 'Keep Park Tidy' signage.

N20 Commons Road: Grade C. There has been no change to the overall litter grade compared to recent IBAL surveys. To the casual observer, it seemed reasonably clean. While the hedgerow was cut back on the side exiting the city, the associated litter has not been collected. There were heavy levels of a wide variety of food (especially fast-food wrappers) and alcohol related litter. It was particularly noticeable at shrubbery behind the bus stop. Other miscellaneous items included a discarded bicycle and drug related packaging.

Thomas Davis Street: Grade D. The litter along this residential street was not associated with the Cluid Housing development. There was scattered litter along the street, but it was particularly pronounced at both the O'Kelly Bros building site and No. 23 – the latter was in a really poor state and bags of rubbish as well as piles of alcohol cans had accumulated behind the railings and on the street side.

Dublin Street: Grade A. The overall impression created along this residential road was a very good one with road surface and markings in good order. There was a derelict / building site but there was no litter directly associated with it.

Richmond Hill Viewing area: Grade A. A small seating area with stunning views. The seats were in very condition and the area has been well managed. Signage related to 'It is an offence to drink alcohol in public places'. It was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

Old Youghal Road – stepped pedestrian pathway: Grade C. There was a very definite litter presence along the steps and in the overhanging green growth. There was a mix of loose food and alcohol related litter, along with face masks and a discarded bag of rubbish.

Goldsmith Avenue: Grade A. A narrow road of terraced houses along one side – all was in good order with a complete absence of litter throughout.

Carey's Lane: Grade B+. Attractive red paving lines this narrow city centre laneway where the individual premises were excellent with regard to litter. It would have got the top litter grade if it wasn't for the litter items not associated with the operating premises.

St. Patrick's Street: Grade B. The presentation of this main shopping street was excellent, with paving, street bins, bicycle parking, ornamental trees etc. in very good order. It mostly presented well regarding litter, but it was impossible to ignore the variety of food related items, some black sacks and

sleeping bags. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the closed down 'Debenhams' site as there was no litter directly associated with it. Cigarette butts were beginning to gather at the base of the ornamental trees.

Perry Street: Grade B. With a little extra effort, this small street could easily get the top litter grade. Chewing gum was pronounced on the road surface, cigarette presence was noticeable, with lower levels of sweet papers.

Lower John Street: Grade B. There was some improvement in the levels of litter, but still a very obvious presence, along with significant graffiti. The themed painting of a property was very effective. An adjoining laneway (St. Mary's) presented very poorly, heavy levels of graffiti and a couple of bags of rubbish. Clearly, Lower John Street and the immediate surrounding laneways / streets require will require sustained efforts to prevent a slide to seriously littered status.

St. Anne's Graveyard, Shandon: Grade B. On first impressions, there was little visible litter with seating and grass areas freshly presented. Further exploration revealed a variety of food related items and face-masks, particularly in a corner with railings and at seating located to the rear. Dog fouling and CCTV signage were in good order.

Widderling's Lane: Grade B. The red brick paving presented well along this pedestrianised stepped pathway. The most obvious litter items were alcohol bottles, with lower levels of a variety of food related items, cigarette butts and dog fouling. Graffiti was significant surrounding the 'Welcome to Shandon Cultural Quarter' signage.

Henry Street: Grade B. The residential aspect of the street, along with the derelict and construction site were clear of litter. It was the litter around Mercy Hospital which was responsible for bringing down the litter grade. Much of the litter was food related but cigarette butts were particularly pronounced – the audio message indicates that it is a 'smoke free campus'. There were no visible litter bins, cigarette butt disposal units or litter awareness signs – perhaps users need to be reminded that cigarette butts are also litter and provision made for the safe disposal of same?

Dyke Road: Grade C. This is another site within Cork City which has seen no improvement on previous IBAL surveys. Some parts were fine, (e.g., the western end) but others less so. As well as causally dropped litter items, there were bags of rubbish, shattered glass at a bus stop and accumulations of various items at a couple of poorly maintained properties. The overall impression along this part of the street was a poor one.

South Main Street: Grade B+. Much of the built environment was in good order with paving, bicycle parking, bollards, street bins etc. freshly presented. Other parts were being redeveloped and these areas were generally in good order in terms of presentation. If it wasn't for the area around the boarding around the derelict site on the city side of the street and the associated litter, this would have been a top-ranking site.

Kennedy Quay / Open space: Grade C. No improved was noted at this site. It remained a heavily littered site, both along the pathway (e.g., bags of rubbish and other miscellaneous items) and behind the railings of various properties.

Lapp's Quay: Grade B+. The streetscape along this riverside environment was excellent e.g., paving, bicycle parking, street bins, ornamental trees, outdoor dining etc. With a little extra care and attention, it could easily get the top litter grade. Coffee cups, sweet wrappers, chewing gum and cigarette butts took away from an otherwise well presented environment.

Carmelite Place, Western Road: Grade D. Not only has this site not improved, but it has also seen a deterioration since previous survey. Long-term litter and other miscellaneous items have been allowed to build up – the whole area presents very poorly and is only like to attract further disposal / discarding of items.

'Headways' Carrigrohane Road: Grade B. There has been a notable improvement since previous survey, though it was still littered. Clearly, a site like this needs constant attention to prevent deterioration to previous heavily littered status.

N40 – J6 to J10: Grade A. This road has shown big improvements compared to previous heavily littered status.

Sarsfield Road Roundabout: Grade B. A definite improvement but still a litter presence at exit off N40 and entrance to Wilton Road.

Wilton Road: Grade B. Another cleaner site than previous surveys with the area around the African Missions clear of litter. This time around the main focus of litter was outside the ESB.

St. Patrick's Quay: Grade C. Accumulations of alcohol cans remain an issue at some fencing opposite the bus station. Based on the faded colouring of the cans, it appears this area has not been cleaned in quite some time. There was no notable improvement.