

Dublin City Centre: 38th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Heavily Littered

While almost half of the 28 sites surveyed were clean, Dublin City suffered from a high number of very heavily littered sites, among them a number of vacant sites. Clean sites included St. Stephen's Green Park, Grafton Street, O'Connell Street, Liffey Boardwalk, Peace Garden (Christchurch) and some of the approach roads. Many of the heavily littered sites were noted in previous IBAL surveys e.g., Werburgh Street Car Park, Vacant site on Lamb Alley / Dean Swift Square, Car Park at St. Michan's Street, Loftus Lane, Green Street / Little Britain Street, to name but a few.

Grafton Street: Grade A. A pristine street - despite an abundance of Christmas shoppers on a beautiful December afternoon. It is great to see the opportunity to separate recyclables (yellow bins) directly beside regular street bins - this is something this has increasingly been rolled out throughout the country, all be it slowly. There were still many closed down / vacant outlets, perhaps not as many as the previous IBAL survey, but clearly, they are carefully monitored as there was no litter directly associated with them.

St. Stephen's Green Park: Grade A. An exceptionally clean and well maintained park environment, fitting for a park flying the Green Flag. The recently installed closed bins will hopefully address the issues of birds scavenging various food related items. The park was being much used on a glorious December afternoon and it was spotless throughout - not a pick of litter to be seen. Great signage relating to historical features in the immediate area were dotted throughout.

Peace Garden, Christchurch: Grade A. A small and tranquil garden space, in an otherwise very busy and noisy junction. It has been beautifully laid out and very well respected and maintained. It was spotless.

Iveagh Market, Francis Street: Grade A. For a long number of years, the front of this historic building had been riddled with alcohol related litter. What a transformation this time around. The council have placed bin bags, and this has prevented the gathering of cans / bottles behind the railings.

Werburgh Street Car Park: Grade D. There has been no improvement at this site which has been in a very poor state the last few IBAL surveys. Litter lined the perimeter, not to mention the accumulations in various corners. Graffiti was pronounced. The whole environment was very unsightly, with the remnants of advertising boards peeling away.

Henry Street: Grade A. A pristine site! The paving along this pedestrianised street looked very well. The yellow bins for 'separating' waste are a great addition to regular street bins – such a simple initiative. Henry Street was spotless throughout.

Vacant site at Lamb Lane and Dean Swift Square: Grade D. Where does responsibility for this site lie? Large accumulations of alcohol related litter, with lower levels of food related items lined the basement of this building. Any recent clean-ups have been negated by further dumping.

Bottle Bank at Chancery Street: Grade D. This facility presents very poorly. There was a mix of recent and 'long-lie' litter behind the fencing, in the immediate area of the bottle bank. As with all the Grade D sites, it needs urgent attention.

11 Ormond Court, Ormond Quay: Grade D. On first impressions, this site seemed in reasonable order. On closer inspection, the basement told a different story – significant accumulations of a wide variety of litter had gathered in the basement, both litter and domestic rubbish.

Loftus Lane: Grade C. There was a modicum of improvement at this site but not enough to shift it any higher than a Grade C. Food and alcohol related litter, combined with clothing and drug related items were very much in evidence. Litter accumulations had gathered in a corner area and beside the blue container, which was covered in graffiti. A more concerted effort is needed to address Loftus Lane.

Chesterfield Avenue: Grade A. The main thoroughfare through Phoenix Park was spotless throughout. The surrounding environment was very well maintained.

Anglesea Row: Grade D. Not only was Anglesea Row heavily litter but black sacks of rubbish had been discarded – the contents of which had been strewn about, most likely by wildlife.

N3 Blanchardstown bypass to Navan Road: Grade A. There were no visible litter issues along this busy route. Road surface, markings and signage were in good order and the overall impression was of a very freshly presented road.

Liffey Boardwalk: Grade A. A lovely waterside environment which has been very well presented and maintained. Seating, tree planter boxes, street bins etc. were all in very good condition – it was excellent with regard to litter.

Vacant Site on St. Michan's Street: Grade C. The Dublin City Council 'No Dumping, CCTV Cameras in Operation' notice has been completely disregarded. There has been a long-term build of all manner of items at this site. If not addressed, this site is well on its way to Grade D status.

Capel Street: Grade A. Capel Street has been reconfigured to accommodate 'outdoor dining' some of it covered and some of it open to the elements. The extended paving area looks well, and the area was enhanced by colourful flower boxes and large planter boxes. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Vacant site on the corner of Paradise Place and St. Mary's Place, North: Grade D. A black bin, a brown bin, plastic bags of rubbish, a car wheel and tyre, a street cone and various other discarded items, were just some of the items which had been discarded at this site. Where does responsibility for it lie?

Henrietta Place: Grade B. There was a notable improvement at Henrietta place, compared to IBAL 2020 visit. This time around there was just casually discarded items, not the dumping that was previously in evidence.

Car Park at St. Michan's Street: Grade D. This is a freshly presented environment with attractive low-lying planting and yet it was riddled with litter, around the perimeter and trapped in the planting. There was a mix of recent and long-lie litter, indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time.

Green Street and Little Britain Street: Grade C+. There was persistent litter along the kerbs and pavements on both sides, at the apartments and Court House entrance. Face-masks, cigarette butts, coffee cups, plastic bottles, plastic bags and sweet papers were all very much in evidence. The outdoor dining area was very well maintained and in stark contrast to the surrounding littered environment.

Derelict / Vacant site at Mount Brown, Kilmainham: Grade D. An area behind railings had been subject to monumental dumping, on an industrial scale. This is visible to the public and only likely to attract further dumping.

Temple Bar: Grade A. An excellent result for an exceptionally busy pedestrianised environment. The area appears to be well served by litter bins / cigarette butt units and certainly the Temple Bar pub deserves mention for abundant planting in an otherwise quite build up area.

Derelict site on Middle Abbey Street: Grade C. This site (For Sale) with a black door and blue colour at street level still presented very poorly. A small improvement wasn't enough to shift it any higher than a Grade C status. While the area in front of the building wasn't littered, it was the accumulations in the basement which brought down the litter grade.

St. John's Road to Con Colbert Road: Grade A. (via Chapelizod Bypass and on to Palmerston Bypass). This route created a very good first impression of Dublin with colourful floral displays at Palmerston bypass. Hedgerows and grass areas were well maintained. There were no visible litter issues throughout the area surveyed.

O'Connell Street: Grade A. O'Connell Street was an exceptionally clean site, with the pavement gleaming. It is very well served by litter bins and street-scape was in excellent order. The outdoor dining areas have been very well managed.

Dominick Lane and Dominick Street Flats: Grade D. Litter and dumping were very much in evidence at this residential area. It presented very poorly.

Parnell Square West and Basements: Grade D+. Parnell Square West was characterised by litter along the pavement, bags of rubbish strewn about and significant discarding of all manner of debris in some basements.

Dublinia: Grade A. There was a marked improved compared to previous IBAL surveys when this had been a heavily littered site.