

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

It is disappointing that Dundalk has again fallen short of clean status, due to too many heavily littered sites. The Peace Garden, Church Street and residential area of Willow Grove were all top ranking, the latter was particularly well presented and maintained. Heavily littered sites included the Recycle Facility at Tesco, Carrickmacross Approach Road, Wrightsons Lane and Clanbrassil Street. By far the most heavily littered site surveyed was a Miscellaneous Wasteground behind a Clothes Bank on the N53 – it wasn't just casually littered but subject to dumping and neglect.

Church Street: Grade A. An excellent impression was created along this street. It was characterised by attractive and wide paving, wooden seating, floral arrangements and outdoor dining – all aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order. It was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

Clanbrassil Street: Grade C+. As well as the casually discarded litter along the street, there were significant accumulations of alcohol and mineral cans at the vacant derelict site opposite York Street junction. This specific premises presented very poorly and will only deteriorate further if not addressed.

Wrightsons Lane: Grade C. There was a constant stream of a wide variety of litter throughout this laneway, much of it visible from the Clanbrassil Street. There was graffiti on the ESB box and the wall. The overall impression created along this laneway was of an abused and neglected environment. There were no litter bins or litter awareness notices.

N52 Approach: Grade A. (from junction with M1 to junction with R132). An excellent impression was created along this route. Road surface, signage and marking were in very good order and there were no visible litter items throughout the area surveyed.

Recycle Facility at Tesco – R132: Grade C+. The individual recycle units were freshly presented but litter items had gathered at the base / between the units and miscellaneous items had been stuffed behind them. Broken glass lay on the ground in front of the units.

Willow Grove: Grade A. There was a complete absence of litter throughout this residential area. The lack of litter, combined with attractive planting and signage point towards a very well cared for and respected environment.

Carrickmacross Road (R178): Grade C+. The cutting of grass verges before the removal of litter has resulted in 'chopped up litter', particularly around the speed limit signs. Sweet papers were the most obvious type, with lower levels of coffee cups, plastic bottles and mineral cans.

N53 Castleblayney Approach: Grade B+. (from Ecco Road junction to Bellewsbridge Road) With a little extra effort (e.g., there was litter at the base of a black bin) this road could easily get the top litter grade. Food related items and face masks took away from an otherwise well presented environment.

Miscellaneous Wasteground behind Clothes Bank on N53: Grade D. This large field has effectively been used as a dumping ground for all manner of items including furniture and builders' rubble. The dumping is now being obscured by overgrowth, but it is still very much a dumping ground. There has been no change in the litter grade since last surveyed. Where does responsibility for this site lie?

Peace Garden: Grade A. The Peace Garden Memorial and immediate surrounding environment were spotless. Street bins were in good condition with dog fouling notices very much in evidence