

**North Inner City Dublin: 40<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Litter Blackspot**

While there was some improvement in North Inner City Dublin, only 5 of the 28 sites surveyed were Clean. The biggest individual improvement was noted at Charleville Mall – this time around it was very much deserving of the top litter grade, previously it had been Grade D status. North Circular Road had been a seriously littered site for a number of years – this time around it improved, somewhat, to moderately littered status; Commons Street and Sean O’Casey Avenue also improved somewhat; Mountjoy Square Park was not just very well presented and maintained, based on the signage on the railings, it offers a variety of outdoor activities throughout the week; within the Ballybough area, there is very clear evidence of work by ‘Ballybough Pride of Place’ – examples of this include the sign indicating that dog fouling bags are available for free at local shops. There were still too many sites which were stubbornly stuck at seriously / litter blackspot status – some of these require attention by individual owners / occupiers but not all.

**Canal at Spencer Dock: Grade D.** The pathway, associated grasslands and immediate hinterland at Spencer Dock was freshly presented, in very good order and clear of litter. It was the myriad of miscellaneous items within the water which were responsible for bringing down the litter grade. Heavy levels of a wide variety of items were present within the water - plastic bottles, mineral cans and alcohol related litter, along with larger items e.g., fencing, old bicycles and discarded domestic items.

**Pairc Shraid an tSirriam: Grade A.** A clean and tidy city centre park environment. The play equipment was in good order. The park signage had significant graffiti. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the park.

**Summerhill / R803: Grade C.** (between junction for Rutland Street Lower and Gardiner Street Lower) The overall impression along this residential stretch of road was of a very definite litter presence – in front of the houses, in basements, at the bus stops and generally along the pavements. Bags of rubbish were strewn on the pavement. Casual litter items were mostly food related, along with cigarette butts and face-masks.

**Buckingham Street, Upper & Lower: Grade C.** There was some improvement noted along Buckingham Street, but this was from a very low base. The major litter issue in the basements of residential area has been addressed – hopefully this will not build up as before. The street litter was what brought down the litter grade this time around.

**Summerhill: Grade B+.** The area outside Summerhill Primary Care Centre was fresh and clear of litter. Small levels of litter were found outside the post-office and at the bus stops – cigarette butts were most obvious with lower levels of face-masks, sweet wrappers and chewing gum.

**Crinian Strand: Grade D.** This residential area is no stranger to Grade D status. Huge swathes of all manner of litter were strewn along the pavement, along with bags of rubbish. The latter were torn, the contents of which were spilling onto the pavement.

**North Circular Road: Grade B.** This is the first time in a number of years that the North Circular Road has shifted from a Grade C status. This time around there were not the same heavy levels of litter as before.

**Aldborough Place: Grade D.** Despite the removal of the large scale dumping, this site was still Grade D status. Bags of rubbish dominated this site. Some of them were ripped, the contents spilling onto the pavement. A few black sacks of rubbish were placed in a corner. The wasteground area behind fencing harboured not just casual litter but various miscellaneous items.

**Environs of Sheriff Street Youth Club: Grade D.** The built environment was in good order with signage and railings freshly presented. It was the very heavy litter items around the perimeter of the playing pitches, trapped behind the fences and on the pedestrian access between the pitches and

laneway leading to Crinian Strand which brought down the litter grade. Much of the litter appeared 'long-lie', indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time.

**Commons Street: Grade B.** This site had been seriously littered on many previous IBAL visits. There was some improvement noted here with just loose litter items, mostly food related and some cigarette butts. Graffiti was very much a feature – on bins, trees and walls.

**Charleville Mall: Grade A.** Credit is certainly due at this waterside site. It has shifted from Grade D in most recent survey to Grade A this time around. Apart from some dog fouling, it was excellent with regard to litter, both the pathway and within the water. This site shows that it can be done.

**North Strand Road: Grade A.** The overall impression along this road was a very good one with regard to litter. Area has been enhanced with some flower boxes. In previous surveys, North Strand Road had a very definite litter presence.

**Miscellaneous site at junction of North Wall and Ossary Road: Grade D.** It would seem that some work has taken place to improve the situation at this site, but not enough to shift it from Grade D status. CCTV signage has been ignored and one such sign, with the litter hotline telephone number, was covered in graffiti.

**Canal Dock at Ossary Road & North Strand: Grade D+.** The artwork along the pedestrian bridge looks great – fresh, bright and colourful. The area beneath had a variety of dumped miscellaneous items.

**Mountjoy Square Park: Grade A.** The signage at the entrance 'Operation Reactivation' indicates a wide variety of outdoor activities available throughout the week e.g., yoga, football for women, self-defence, etc. – a great initiative to encourage outdoor activity. This very much sets the tone for the overall presentation and maintenance of the park environment – it was clear of litter and the facilities within were in very good order e.g. play equipment, seating, bins etc.

**Sean O'Casey Avenue: Grade B.** A much improved site compared to recent IBAL visit. This time around there were no heavy accumulations, just a loose litter presence (plastic bottles, sweet papers and fast-food wrappers) on the kerbs and pavements.

**Ballybough Road: Grade C.** The 'Welcome to Ballybough' signage looked well, with some colourful flowers at the base. A small, recessed area with attractive paving, wooden seating and planting provided the opportunity for respite in an otherwise busy environment. As well as heavy levels of a wide variety of litter there were some bags of domestic rubbish along the road. The front of some individual properties harboured litter.

**Gardiner Street Lower: Grade A.** Paving, outdoor planting, bollards, tree planting contributed to the overall positive impression created along this street. Apart from some dog fouling and cigarette butts, there were no other litter issues of note.

**Railway Street: Grade C.** There was a minor improvement, from a low Grade D status in previous IBAL survey. However, this was still a seriously littered site with all manner of food and alcohol related items, combined with some bags of rubbish. It was most pronounced at the Buckingham Street lower end of Railway Street.

**Sheriff Street, Lower: Grade C.** (from Amiens Street to Commons Street). The main litter items were food related, along with face-masks and lower levels of alcohol cans. It was particularly noticeable at the bus stops / bus parking areas. The area surrounding ESB box harboured heavy levels of litter. Graffiti was also a feature.

**Basement of 'Vincent's' on Sean McDermott Street: Grade D.** A blanket of litter dominated this site. There were significant accumulations of 'long-lie' and recent litter behind the railings / beneath the fencing at this site.

**Rutland Street Lower: Grade C.** The pavements, area behind railings and basements of some properties harboured a variety of litter. Dog fouling was significant along the pavement.

**Miscellaneous site on Sean McDermott Street: Grade D.** (No. 72) The basement of this property wasn't just littered but subject to dumping. The building itself and associated railings were in good order.

**Sheriff Street Lower: Grade D.** (from Spencer Dock to Commons Street) The boarded up properties harboured large amounts of a variety of litter. But this wasn't the only reason for the Grade D status. The remainder of the street was littered, most pronounced along the kerbs.

**Clonliffe Avenue: Grade B.** Sporadic on the kerbs and in a few gardens of houses of the houses took away from an otherwise well presented environment. Dog fouling was recent and fresh. Bright mural added a great splash of colour. 'Ballybough Pride of Place' dog fouling signage indicates that free dog fouling bags are available in all local shops. Other dog fouling notices 'Bin the Poo' had been placed on the ground.

**King's Avenue: Grade B.** The immediate entrance to the street shows great work by the local community groups by way of attractive flower boxes and street decorations. Unfortunately, old and recent / fresh litter can be seen on the kerbs throughout and in the flower beds installed by the local community.

**Foster Terrace: Grade B+.** The front of the houses create a good impression and were clear of litter. Loose litter items, mostly food related and some face-masks took away from an otherwise good site.

**Bayview Avenue: Grade B.** Evidence of good work by local community groups along the residential road of Bayview Avenue. Not much effort is required for this to get the top litter grade. Sweet papers, plastic bottles, coffee cups and face-masks were the main litter issues of note.