

**Waterford City: 11<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.**

**A consistently high ranking city, Waterford City has topped the list of the cities surveyed by a long shot. Even poorer performing sites from recent surveys have been addressed, with just one heavily littered site out of a total of 24 surveyed. What is so striking about the top performing sites is not just the lack of litter but the overall presentation and maintenance of same – e.g., Plunkett Train Station, People's Park, Medieval Triangle / Cultural Quarter, Bus Eireann Station (The Quays), the grounds of Waterford Courthouse, The Mall, the residential area of South Parade, to name a few. The Car Park opposite People's Park had been a heavily littered site over several previous IBAL surveys - not so, this time around.**

**Plunkett Train Station - Exterior: Grade A.** Always an excellent site, things were no different this time around. Plunkett Train Station provides a lovely welcome for any visitors arriving by train - attractive planting and historical items of note were very much features of the exterior of the station. There was a complete absence of litter throughout.

**The Mall: Grade A.** A superb site. Not only was it spotless throughout but the whole presentation of this wide streetscape was excellent. Paving, bicycle parking, visitor information maps / notices were in very good order. Some new street bins have been installed with colourful painted characters encouraging the use of same.

**Miscellaneous site along Ferrybank: Grade B.** This site, behind railings, (a former garage?) has begun to gather litter, the broken fencing allowing easy access by the public. A variety of litter, along with other miscellaneous items (e.g., car hub, umbrella) were found here. This will only deteriorate if not addressed.

**Miscellaneous Site at Bridge: Grade C+.** A long-term litter issue has developed both outside and behind the railings of this site. Main items were food and alcohol related, along with other miscellaneous items.

**'Bring Bank' at The Glen: Grade A.** A small 'Bring Bank' for cans and bottles. It was clean and tidy with bin units and associated signage in good order.

**People's Park: Grade A.** This beautiful park environment has been so well presented and maintained. The main entrance was a very welcoming one with attractive 'olde' style tea rooms. All the various elements of the park were in very good order e.g., exercise equipment, playgrounds, rose garden, boules, skateboard park etc. This is clearly a very well respected and cared for park environment.

**Grounds of Waterford Courthouse: Grade A.** As with many of the previous IBAL surveys, this site was very much deserving of the top litter grade. Grounds were very well maintained with attractive paving.

**Car Park at end of Little Patrick Street: Grade A.** The overall presentation of this on street car park has been much enhanced by the large gable wall painting, adding a splash of colour. The small 'Bring Facility' within was clean and tidy. Clearly a very thorough cleaning regime is in place as the difficult to access areas (around the perimeter / between and behind cars) were clear of litter. Apart from some face masks and cigarette butts, this was spotless.

**Car Park opposite People's Park: Grade A.** What a transformation! This was a seriously littered site over the last few IBAL visits - not so, this time around. Clearly a substantial clean-up has taken place. Now that it has been addressed, it should be easier to keep clean in the future piece of Styrofoam in top right hand corner.

**Michael Street: Grade B.** The main street thoroughfare was beautifully paved / pedestrianised, with some attractive shop fronts and some closed down / vacant properties. One of the latter, an area behind red railings had an accumulation of a variety of large miscellaneous items, visible from the street. Efforts have been made 'to take away the bare look' and this certainly does help the overall appearance.

**Approach from Waterford Greenway: Grade B.** While some of the road was closed due to roadworks, the stretch which was accessible had a definite litter presence - all food related items (e.g. coffee cups, plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers, mineral cans and sweet wrappers) trapped at the base of grass area on the right hand side.

**Tramore Approach Road: Grade A.** From Ballindud Roundabout to roundabout with SuperValu. All appeared in good order along this fast-moving stretch of road. Footpath was recessed from the road, and it was clear.

**Morris's Centre: Grade A.** The overall impression at this shopping area, car park and outdoor eating was a good one. Car park had been enhanced by large planter boxes. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

**Waterford Nature / Kilbarry: Grade B+.** A wonderful recent addition to Waterford City, the overall presentation and maintenance of this substantial park was very good. The car park / entrance was in very good order with dedicated 'novel' bin for plastic bottles, 'poop and scoop' facility, excellent signage and visitor information notices. There was a virtual absence of litter along the perimeter 2km pathway, but it was the litter (much of it alcohol related) at the viewing area and the dog fouling on the pathway leading to the viewing area which brought down the litter grade.

**Kingfisher Sports Facility: Grade B.** The main grounds of the Kingfisher Sports Facility presented very well, and the car park had not visible litter issues. The one area which harboured litter was the enclosed astroturf playing field - a casual attitude to the disposal of plastic bottles and face masks prevailed here.

**Miscellaneous Site on road to the hospital– Woodpecker: Grade B.** There was evidence of a clean-up at this site, compared to the last few IBAL visits. It didn't harbour the same level of heavy levels of a wide variety of litter and miscellaneous items - smaller amounts were visible this time. The site is currently 'For Sale', perhaps the clean up will help with the sale of same.

**South Parade / Otterman Place: Grade A.** There was a virtual absence of litter along this residential road. A former resident of note had a plaque in her honour. Evidence of house-proud residents as one was observed power hosing the paving directly outside their house. Many of the homes had attractive planting.

**Medieval Triangle - Cultural Quarter: Grade A.** An extensive area including Reginald's Tower, Silver Museum, Medieval Museum, Bishop's Palace, Cathedral and Memorial Garden - the latter is beautifully landscaped with many different memorials / dedications / sculptures within. There was a complete absence of litter throughout this extensive area - it is a real credit to the city.

**The Quay - Retail side: Grade A.** This was a pristine site. A long stretch of some very fine buildings with lovely paving underfoot - it was spotless throughout.

**Riverwalk, The Quays: Grade B+.** The overall impression along this stretch of riverwalk from the bridge to the Wallace Plaza was a generally good one, but there were too many incidents of dog fouling and other occasional food related items for the top litter grade. Plaza area was exceptionally well presented and maintained. Colourful plant boxes and ornamental trees and life-belt equipment were in good order.

**Bus Eireann Station – Exterior: Grade A.** The Bus Eireann Station along the Quays has been a top ranking site for the last few years - things were no different this time around. Litter awareness notices were widespread and there were a large number of bins and cigarette butt facilities. Planted area to the front was well maintained. Cleary, station staff are very attentive.

**R448 Newrath Approach Road: Grade A.** There were no visible litter issues along this fast-moving route. Just large piece of industrial plastic.

**Broad Street / Barronstrand: Grade B+.** A wide and attractive streetscape with lovely stone seating, ornamental trees, bicycle parking, planter boxes - all very well presented and maintained. Much of the area was clear of litter but there were too many food related items for the top litter grade.

**Ferrybank Approach: Grade A.** from Texaco station. A wide and sweeping route with very very minimal litter. While there was a series of 'boarded up buildings' on the left hand side, they didn't harbour any litter. (see separate survey site for fenced off premises on the left).