

**Ballybane: 40<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Seriously Littered.**

**Despite improvements in other urban areas countrywide, there has been little change in the overall litter situation in Ballybane, with three top ranking sites and two litter blackspots – the latter were Ballybane Industrial Estate and Ballybane Village – both of them are no stranger to this litter status. The Recycle Facility at Joyce's Supermarket was seriously littered, as was a Miscellaneous site on R339 Monivea Road.**

**Ballybane Road: Grade A.** Colourful flowers at the base of the road signage created a fresh welcome to a clean and litter free site. Plenty of grass, along with trees lines this main thoroughfare.

**Recycle Facility at Joyce's Supermarket: Grade C.** This recycle facility presented more poorly than previous IBAL litter surveys. It wasn't just littered but subject to dumping. Clothes were spilling out of the clothing unit, several black sacks had been dumped, along with large child's toy. Alcohol related items and other litter had been stuffed between the units and lined the base of same.

**Ballybane Shopping Centre: Grade B.** This was mostly a clean and tidy environment with just too many random and recent litter items for the top litter grade. The individual outlets appeared well cared for.

**Clareview Park: Grade B.** Much of the litter at this residential area was food and alcohol related e.g., plastic bottles, sweet wrappers, mineral and alcohol cans etc. and had been casually discarded along the footpath and road. This took away from an otherwise well

**Castlepark Park: Grade A.** Overall, this site was very much deserving of the top litter grade and a significant improvement on previous IBAL survey. The large expanse of grassland was more 'natural' than manicured, perhaps a nod towards how green spaces are being managed?

**Ballybane Village: Grade D.** There was no change to the status of this site. All manner of litter lined the pavement, the roadway, beneath the mesh netting at the base of the railings. And, that's before one gets to the dumping.... A mountain of black sacks lined one pathway and large levels of litter had gathered at the unfinished / cordoned off building area. Where does the responsibility for this Ballybane Village (officially opened by a Mayor and Minister in 2007, as per the plaque) lie?

**Miscellaneous site on R339 Monivea Road: Grade C.** Much of Monivea Road was quite good with regard to litter. However, there was one miscellaneous area, a vacant lot opposite Mace Shop where bags of rubbish had been discarded by the fencing.

**East United Sports Ground / Park: Grade A.** Not only was there a complete absence of litter at this site, all elements were in good order, bar some graffiti on the club building.

**Bothar na Mine: Grade C+.** The majority of the road and the associated industrial premises were reasonably clear of litter (bar occasional loose items) but one area presented poorly with a series of discarded large cardboard boxes and other industrial waste.

**Ballybane Industrial Estate: Grade D.** There were some very well presented and maintained premises, but they were overshadowed by large scale neglect. Perhaps the signage to the estate says it all – it would seem that a large number of the names various business have been removed / deleted. An incredible air of neglect prevailed throughout communal areas, especially the access from N83. Some of the vacant buildings have fallen into a terrible state of disrepair. Another area had simply been used as a dumping ground, all manner of large items strewn about – a sign in the immediate area to this widescale dumping related to 'No Parking for pleasure or else your car will be clamped' – somebody is clearly claiming some kind of 'ownership' of same.

