

Ballymun: 31st out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered.

There was a notable improvement in the overall presentation of Ballymun with several of the heavily littered sites in 2021 no longer so – examples of these included the car park at the former Ballymun Shopping Centre, Gateway Crescent and the rear of Ballymun Sports and Leisure Centre. Several different initiatives were noted e.g., Tidy Towns, 'Better Ballymun' and 'Ballymun Recovery – our Community Supports Addiction Recovery'. The Bottle / Clothing Bank on Shandon Road was still seriously littered. By far the most heavily littered area surveyed in Ballymun was Balbutcher Lane – the entrances to the former towers continue to be used as a dumping ground.

Approach from M50: Grade B. There was a definite litter presence along this road, most notably on the grassy areas either side of the road. Closer to the town centre, the central median was lined with attractive 'Tidy Towns' planter boxes and there was very little litter in evidence along this stretch.

Balbutcher Lane: Grade D. As well as casual litter along the grasslands, the entrances to the former Ballymun Towers remain subject to dumping. All manner of household items have been discarded in front of and behind the railings – there has been little change in the litter grade at this site for a long number of years.

Santry Approach Road: Grade A. An excellent route in terms of presentation and litter – there was a virtual absence of litter throughout. Colourful planter box at 'Welcome to Ballymun' signage was a nice feature.

Car Park at former Ballymun Shopping Centre: Grade A. (note – this is not the 'pay & display' car park). What a transformation! This site had been very heavily littered over the last few survey visits – this time around it was very much deserving of the top litter grade. The signage 'no parking due demolition' relates to 2019 and is clearly being flouted as the car park was full.

Ballymun Civic / Axis Centre: Grade A. A large expanse of public space which was very well presented and maintained. All aspects were in very good order e.g. seating, street bins, large planter boxes, signage etc. Apart from cigarette butts at the base of the seating, there was an absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

Bottle / Clothing Bank at Shandon Road: Grade C. A small facility with just a few units for bottles / clothing and yet and it was in very poor shape with no improvement since 2021. The area to the front wasn't too bad but the area to the rear and between the units revealed another story – black sack of rubbish, children's nappy, broken glass and bottle tops on the ground and a variety of household related rubbish e.g. onion, ear buds etc..

Ballymun Road: Grade A. An extensive stretch of road which had a virtual absence of litter. The 'yellow recycle' bin outside SuperValu is a welcome addition and such a simple solution for the separation of waste. The area was well served by regular litter bins, plenty of dog-fouling signage, tiered planter boxes, some 'traffic light box art', 'Interactive Poetry Trail', outside Trinity Comprehensive School and Ballymun Tidy Towns planter boxes with 'Together we can keep Ballymun Tidy' signage.

Ballymun Sports & Leisure Centre: Grade B. In the previous survey, it was the rear where the real litter problems lay – this time around it was the frontage onto Ballymun Road and behind the railings along Gateway Crescent which harboured litter – there was a mix of food and alcohol related items, along with cigarette butts.

Gateway Crescent: Grade B. Gateway Crescent had scored quite poorly on many previous IBAL surveys – this time around, there was a marked improvement. Two brightly painted flower boxes with colourful planting looked very well. A black sack had been discarded beside a street bin and there were very heavy levels of cigarette butts along the kerbway, both sides of the road.

Poppintree Park: Grade A. This was a super site in terms of overall presentation, maintenance and litter. A wonderful facility with all aspects in very good condition e.g. seating, signage, playground equipment, PE equipment, playing fields, Native Tree Trail, etc – fitting for a park flying the Green Flag. Poppintree Park is a credit to the users and those responsible for the maintenance of same.