

Cork City: 36th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Littered

With just 5 top ranking sites out of 25 surveyed, Cork City is very much placed in the bottom quarter of the rankings. That said, a few sites deserve a special mention as they showed a notable improvement this time around: Sarsfield Road Roundabout, Wilton Road; 'Headways' at Carrigrohane Road; Lower John Street; St. Patrick's Quay – all managed to shift from a low litter grade up to at least a Grade B status. This wasn't the case for all the poorer ranking sites in 2021, with one of them deteriorating even further - Carmelite Place, Western Road. Other heavily littered sites included North Ring Road and N20 Commons Road.

Dunkettle Interchange: Grade A. Currently, one large construction site. All appeared clean with no visible litter issues.

N40 – J10 – J6: Grade B. There was an obvious litter presence along this route, particularly on the left hand side at Junctions 10, 9 and 6. A wide variety of litter was present.

Sarsfield Road Roundabout: Grade B+. An improvement was very much noted at this site. This time around the most obvious litter items were cigarette butts, with lower levels of sweet papers, fast-food wrappers and plastic bottle. Now that this site has improved, it should hopefully be easier to keep at this level of cleanliness.

Wilton Road: Grade B. Another site where there was a notable improvement compared to previous IBAL surveys. This time around it was let down by food related litter in the shrubs running parallel with Wilton Shopping Centre. The most obvious items were food related e.g., empty salad cartons / sandwiches.

Recycle Facility at Wilton Shopping Centre: Grade A. An exceptionally clean and well managed facility – very much deserving of the top litter grade.

'Headways' at Carrigrohane Road: Grade B. Great to see another site which was much improved on previous surveys. The area still has an 'unkempt' appearance but certainly the litter levels were significantly reduced – ideally, they won't be allowed to return to previous levels. This time around there were cigarette butts and a wide variety of food related items.

Coburg Street: Grade A. Apart from some cigarette butts, there was an absence of litter along this small street. Much has been done to enhance the area, with 'Sin E' bar bright and colourful.

Devonshire Street: Grade B. This was a mixed street in terms of presentation – some of the buildings were derelict, others clean and freshly presented e.g. The Abbot Ale House. The centre of the street was generally quite clean, but it was the litter at either end which brought down the litter grade. As well as food related items, much of the litter related to cigarettes, alcohol and empty pill packets.

Lower John Street: Grade B. While there was a heavy graffiti presence, the level of litter was certainly much improved on 2021 IBAL surveys. It was a mix of food and alcohol related, scattered throughout, not obvious in any one particular place.

Watercourse Road: Grade B. The overflowing litter bin was partly contributing to the litter presence, along with scattered items. There were very large quantities of cigarette butts on the kerb, it looked like they had been swept from the street. Other items included plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers, mineral cans and plastic bottles.

Bell's Field: Grade B. A large expanse of 'grassland / parkland' which just missed getting the top litter grade. The area appears well maintained with freshly cut grass and benches / bins in good order. Much of the litter was around the base of the benches.

St. Patrick's Hill: Grade B. The overall impression along this road was a littered one – heavy levels of cigarette butts were present, along with lower levels of sweet papers, fast-food wrappers and coffee cups.

MacCurtain Street: Grade A. An attractive and brightly presented city centre street with an eclectic mix of buildings. The overall impression was of a clean and well maintained environment with a virtual absence of litter throughout.

St. Patrick's Quay: Grade B. It is great to see so many sites which were poorly ranked in IBAL 2021 scoring far better this time around. St. Patrick's Quay is another one of these sites. This time around the litter was most obvious close to Brian Boru Bridge, and significantly cleaner towards Bridge Street. Face-masks were pronounced, with lower levels of alcohol, food and cigarette related litter.

St. Patrick's Street: Grade B+. St. Patrick's Street was looking particularly fresh with elements of the streetscape in very good order. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the vacant / derelict buildings as there was no litter directly associated with them. Cigarette butts remain an issue, with lower levels of sweet wrappers.

Academy Street: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along this small street, off St. Patrick's Street. The side with the cafes was freshly presented, bright and welcoming and the bar on the other side was excellent. There was some graffiti.

Maylor Street: Grade B+. This pedestrianised street just missed getting the top litter grade – not much effort is required for same. Paving, bollards and street bins were in good order and there was a splash of greenery in some planter boxes.

Kennedy Quay: Grade C. While this site was seemingly cleaner than previous IBAL surveys, there was a very definite litter presence (particularly alcohol related) along the public areas and dumping had taken place behind the large grey gates. Port of Cork signage indicates that 'Illegal Dumping is Prohibited, CCTV in operation, If you can see this Sign, we can see you and your actions are being recorded, Prosecution will Follow'.

Copley Street: Grade B+. There were too many alcohol cans / bottles and cigarettes for the top litter grade. With a little extra effort this could be attained. Graffiti was pronounced on a few surfaces.

Liberty Street: Grade B. A freshly presented city centre street which was let down by obvious cigarette butts along the kerb and lower levels of coffee cups and sweet papers. Graffiti also featured. Brightly painted murals take away the bare look on some of the properties.

Dyke Parade: Grade B. There was a variety of casually discarded litter along this road. Large black sacks had been dumped / hidden beneath the large shrubbery area of a boarded up house (No. 5) and another house had (No. 19) presented poorly.

Thomas Davis Street: Grade C. Some of the boarded up properties presented poorly along Thomas Davis Street. There were heavy levels of a wide variety of alcohol and food related items, particularly at the bus stop (53-554) under the fly-over bridge and at a recessed gate entrance – the latter had accumulations of 'long-lie' litter, indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time.

N20 Commons Road: Grade D+. There was no notable improvement in the overall litter situation along this road. There were small accumulations close to the city but significant accumulations in the brambles behind the bus stop and along the footpath throughout.

North Ring Road: Grade D. This road wasn't just casually littered but subject to dumping – dumping on a large scale, some of it recessed from the road. The stone fencing was broken in many places. The overall impression was a very poor one

Carmelite Place, Western Road: Grade D. This site was poor in 2021 and things have deteriorated even further since then. All manner of miscellaneous items, some of it building related, had been discarded at this site.