

Galway City Centre: 17th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

A spectacular result for Galway City, among its best ever, as it welcomes summer tourists. 17 out of 25 sites surveyed earned the top litter grade and only one was seriously littered, at Westside Amenity Park. With so many top ranking sites, a few deserve a special mention e.g., Galway Shopping Centre, Eyre Square, Shop Street, Quay Street, Westside Recycle Bank and the residential area of Brookdale.

R864 Newcastle Approach Road: Grade B. The level of litter along this road was such that it was verging on a Grade C status. There was a very definite food related litter presence, e.g., coffee cups, plastic bottles, fast-food litter, alcohol cans, (particularly around the wooden picnic tables, of which there were a few different sets). Some of the litter was 'recent', but not all, indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time. The plater boxes would benefit from freshening up.

University Hospital Galway grounds: Grade B+. A freshly presented and well maintained environment with very clear HSE signage relating to University Hospital Galway. It is great to see the the green 'recycle' bin attached to the regular litter bin. The campus is 'Smoke Free' and thus doesn't provide facilities for the disposal of same – the result of this is that butts have accumulated. Other minor litter items included food-related litter and face masks.

Car Park 1, University Hospital Grounds: Grade A. A very freshly presented car park environment with a virtual absence of litter throughout – only cigarette butts. The car park surface, markings and signage were in very good order.

Shopping Centre, Seamus Quirke Road: Grade A. All aspects of this shopping centre environment were in very good order e.g., paving, bicycle parking, bollards, car park and low-lying planting. The plant containers were heavily weeded with no plants. The area was very good with regard to litter.

Westside Recycle Bank: Grade A. An exceptionally clean and tidy 'Bring Facility' – not an easy thing to achieve. Recycle bins were mostly in good order, bar some graffiti. Plenty of clear and well-presented signage relating to the use of the facility.

Westside Amenity Park: Grade C. A very nicely presented open space with a range of activities within. The activity related locations were generally quite good.e.g. play areas, running track, tennis courts, running tract etc but the main grass areas / pathways had litter throughout, with accumulations in corner locations. There was a mix of a wide variety of food related items and alcohol cans / bottles. This site was by far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Galway.

Westside Enterprise Park: Grade A. There were no litter issues of note throughout this business park environment. Areas in front of individual premises were in good order.

Inishaannagh Park: Grade A. This residential development was very good with regard to litter. The overall impression created here was a positive one with large expanse of green space in good order.

Distributor Road: Grade A. Road surface, markings and signage were in very good order. There was a virtual absence of litter along this road. Verges were well tended – the overall impression was a good one.

Recycle Bank at R336 / Coast Road: Grade A. Clear and legible signage relating to the use of the facility, along with CCTV notice. Bin units were freshly presented and there were no items stuffed between, beneath, or behind the units, as so often happens. This was a very clean, tidy and well maintained facility.

R337 Kingston / Spiddal Approach Road: Grade B. There was an obvious litter presence along this road. The main visible litter items along this road included mineral cans, fast-food wrappers, plastic bottles, coffee cups, alcohol cans and cigarette butt.

The Prom.: Grade B+. Plenty of signage throughout relating to Keep Galway Clean / Dog Control By Laws / Alcohol Free Area, 'Clean It Up, You Dirty Pup' etc...The area is served by solid litter bins with 'Mutt Mitt' and cigarette butt units attached and opportunities for separating waste into 'recycling'. It was mostly the dog-fouling which brought down the litter grade, along with some coffee cups and sweet wrappers.

Curry's Fun Park; Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter at this amusement park.

N84 Headford Approach Road: Grade B. As well as the casually discarded food related items, other visible items included cardboard and polystyrene. Much of the litter was located along the edges of fields rather than dwellings.

Caireal Mor: Grade A. The residential area of Caireal Mor was a particularly fresh and well presented one. Plenty of ornamental trees throughout and low-lying planted areas – all in very good order. It was spotless throughout.

The Church of the Resurrection: Grade A. The church grounds were beautifully maintained plenty of colourful planting throughout. All aspects were in very good condition. It was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

Brookdale: Grade A. Another excellent residential area, in terms of presentation and litter. A freshly presented and maintained environment.

Galway Shopping Centre: Grade A. A pristine site! A large shopping centre environment, with plenty of activity within – and yet there was a complete absence of litter throughout. Bins were in very good order.

South Park – Nimmo's Pier: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter at this waterside environment. There was plenty of signage relating to no camping / don't feed the ducks & swans / Green Schools signage Park and Stride / No alcohol etc. The letter font on the plaque dedicated to Alexander Nimmo was almost illegible on some parts – it would be lovely if this could be addressed.

Claddagh Park, Children's Play Area: Grade A. A small amenity, the equipment within was fresh looking and in good order. It was excellent regarding litter.

Eyre Square: Grade A. Eyre Square was looking great. The build environment (e.g., paving, steps, etc.) was very fresh and the grass / planted areas were in good order. One of the traffic light box art features (Galway Tidy Towns) had been defaced by graffiti.

Shop Street: Grade A. Apart from chewing gum, there were no litter issues along Shop Street. While the paving underfoot was quite old, it wasn't littered.

Spanish Arch: Grade B+. This site just missed getting the top litter grade. It has been attractively paved, combined with ornamental trees, bicycle parking, solid street bins, sculpture, signage and closed-top litter bins. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order.

Quay Street: Grade A. Lovely brick-work underfoot created a lovely impression along this 'olde' style shopping street. Individual premises were well presented. The overall impression was of a very clean and well maintained street.

Market Street Car Park: Grade B. A moderately littered car park environment, most food related items. While there was construction work was taking place around the perimeter, with associated litter, this wasn't the reason for the downgrading of the site.