

Limerick City Centre: 29th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered.

In tandem with other cities, Limerick has improved over the past 6 months, with the absence of litter blackspots a contributing factor. There was just one in Limerick, at Lr Mallow Street, compared to 5 last year. 40% of sites were free of litter. Improvements were noted at the miscellaneous site at entrance to Cruises Street Car Park; Colbert Train & Bus Station and at Thomandgate (Residential). Heavily littered sites included Cecil St, wasteground at Thomandgate and a back lane at Parnell Street.

Chapel Street: Grade B+. Chapel Street just missed getting the top litter grade. Some food related items and cigarette butts took away from an otherwise well presented environment. The dog fouling sticker on the large covered pedal bin was beginning to peel away.

Cecil Street: Grade C+. This was a very mixed street – the stretch where the shops are was litter free but the other end harboured heavy levels of a wide variety of litter items, mostly food related, along with cigarette butts and face masks. The overflowing cigarette butt unit on the large bin was further adding to the poor impression created here.

Entrance to Cruises Street Car Park: Grade A. This site had been highlighted as heavily littered in previous IBAL surveys – not so, this time around.

O’Connell Street: Grade B+. Major pavement relaying was taking place, where complete this created a very fresh impression. Cigarette butts were the most obvious litter types with lower levels of sweet wrappers and chewing gum – the latter was most obvious on the ‘old’ pavement. There were plenty of litter bins throughout. It was great to see the ‘green’ recycling bin directly beside the regular street bin – this positive action is being increasingly rolled out throughout the country.

Area by Pharmacy & Bellisimo at Henry St. Car Park – Mount Kenneth Place: Grade B. The level of cigarette butts were primarily responsible for bringing down the litter grade at this site. This is something which could easily be tackled. There were no visible litter bins / cigarette butt units / litter awareness notices in the area surveyed.

Bishops Quay: Grade A. This lovely riverside environment presented very well with attractive paving, seating, railings, planting, sculpture of dockers and litter bins, with the opportunity for recycling. There was a complete absence of litter throughout. Hard hitting dog fouling notice ‘Protect Public Health, Scoop the Poop, Maximum Fine of €4,000’ was displayed.

Vacant site at basement of No. 20 Mallow Street: Grade C. A minor improvement was noted here but not enough to shift it from Grade C status. It is still subject to abuse.

Miscellaneous site at entrance to Cruises Street Car Park: Grade A. A much improved site with fencing erected since the last survey – this seems to be having the desired effect, in that there were no dumping issues as previously noted.

Robert Steet: Grade A. Robert Street was acting as a ‘Market Place’ at the time of the survey. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout, with council workers in attendance.

Miscellaneous laneways between Upper William Street & High Street: Grade C. These laneways were in sharp contrast to the main shopping streets. An air of neglect prevailed throughout, graffiti was pronounced and heavy levels of a wide variety of litter lined the base of the walls – well on its way to Grade D status, if not addressed.

Upper William Street: Grade B+. Significant levels of cigarette butts took away from an otherwise well presented shopping environment. Litter / Recycle bins, tree planting, bicycle parking and paving were in good order.

O’Brien’s Park / Clare Street Park; Grade A. This lovely city centre green space has been attractively laid out and very well maintained e.g. seating, paving, planted areas, litter bins etc. Signage relating to the use of the park was in very good condition. It was spotless throughout.

Parkway Retail Park: Grade A. This extensive retail park environment presented very well with regard to litter. There were plenty of litter bins throughout and the shrubs / hedges were well maintained. It was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

R445 Dublin Approach Road: Grade A. This was a very well presented and maintained route, creating a positive first impression of Limerick City. Bus stop areas were clear of litter and grass verges had recently been cut.

Wasteground at Thomandgate – lane opposite Ossington Terrace: Grade C+. Some improvement was noted here, behind the black fencing. Yet there was still a heavy litter presence behind the green fencing - a mix of food and alcohol related litter.

O'Callaghan Strand: Grade A. Another lovely riverside environment which presented very well – there was a virtual absence of litter throughout. Almost all aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order, except the NDP O'Callaghan Strand signage was somewhat illegible due to the wearing away of the font.

Shannonbridge Roundabout: Grade A. A fresh and welcoming impression was created at this busy junction. Road surface, markings and signage were in very good condition and there was abundant planting at the roundabout. It was spotless throughout.

Colbert Train / Bus Station: Grade A. This had been a seriously littered site in 2021 – not so, this time around. The paved area to the front looked exceptionally well with seating, lamp-posts, visitor information signage, litter / recycle bins etc. in very good condition. Apart from cigarette butts close to the station entrance, there were no other litter issues, except an area behind railings / fence at the corner of the entrance to the station / stops.

Back lane at Parnell Street: Grade C This site has been highlighted in previous IBAL surveys and while there was some improvement, it was not enough to shift it from Grade C status. The overall impression was still of an untidy and poorly maintained site with substantial litter at the base of the large industrial bins. There were also accumulations behind the fencing. This area will only deteriorate further if not addressed.

Bring Facility, Dock Road: Grade B+. The recycle units were freshly presented and signage relating to use of same was in good order. Apart from broken glass at the base of the bins, all appeared reasonably clean - further exploration revealed some items to the rear of the units. A more thorough approach to emptying / cleaning would be required to address this.

Basement of No. 7 Lower Mallow Street: Grade D. There was no improvement noted at this site which has been highlighted in previous surveys. It has been subject to long-term abuse and neglect. This requires attention.

Island Road: Grade B+. Historic signage relating to 'Island Road & Remains of the City Wall' was in very good condition. Much of the site appeared clear of litter but there was food related litter at the base of the perimeter shrubbery.

Basement of No. 31 Cecil Street: Grade C. While other basements along Cecil Street harboured litter, No. 31 had particularly heavy levels, levels such that, if not addressed could quickly slide to Grade D status.

Thomandgate: Grade A. A much improved site compared to previous surveys, this time around there was just minor litter, not enough to take away from the top litter grade. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the boarded up premises as there was no litter directly associated with it.

Mount Kennedy Place: Grade B. Much of the litter along this road was along the kerb where the cars are parked, a mix of food related items, plastic bags and cigarette butts. The pavements were generally clear but a more thorough approach to the cleaning of the kerbs is required to address this.