

Waterford City: 14th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

Waterford City is a consistently highly ranking city and this time around it has excelled. Almost all of the city centre sites were top ranking – these included Broad Street / Barronstrand, Lady Lane, Viking Quarter / Medieval Quarter and both the Bus Eireann Station and Plunkett Train Station – the latter two created a very good first impression of the city and this high standard was sustained for many of the remaining sites. The People's Park and Waterford Nature Park are wonderful green spaces which have been particularly well presented and maintained – this takes a big commitment, but it is great to see them being enjoyed by so many. The grounds of Waterford Courthouse were spotless and WIT / SETU was very much deserving of the top litter grade. Other examples of top ranking sites included Waterford Retail Park and the Hyper Centre. By far the most heavily littered site was a miscellaneous site at the Bridge (diagonally across from Plunkett Station) – this time around it wasn't just casually littered but subject to dumping (areas accessed by the public in front of the gate to the site).

Hyper Centre / SuperValu Shopping Centre: Grade A. The exterior / car park area of this shopping centre environment was excellent with regard to litter. Apart from a couple of SuperValu litter bins at the entrance to the store there didn't appear to be any other litter bins, yet the whole area was clear of litter. Attractive 'olde' style street lamps at the wheelchair parking bays.

Bring Centre at Bus Eireann, Ferrybank: Grade A. There were no litter issues at this clothing / newspaper / bottle / can facility. The bottle, can and clothing units were particularly freshly presented, the newspaper units, less so. Some of the units were flush against the wall, the remainder were free standing, leaving no opportunity for the 'stuffing' of items behind units, as so frequently happens at such facilities.

R445 Newrath Approach Road: Grade A. This route was particularly freshly presented, with all aspects in very good order.

Tramore Approach Road: Grade A. From Ballindud Roundabout to Kingfisher Sports Facility. This road presented very well.

Kingfisher Sports Facility: Grade A. There wasn't the same plastic bottle issue at the Astro-turf pitch as previous surveys. Grounds were being maintained at time of survey. Picnic table and colourful flower boxes at main entrance building. Overall, this site was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

Waterford Nature Park / Kilbarry: Grade A. A wonderful expanse of parkland, 2km perimeter route with viewing area accessed by steps / various pathways. 'Managed for Biodiversity'; a beautiful environment, naturally maintained. PE equipment in good condition. Novel plastic bottle recycle facility at car park entrance. Good dog fouling signage throughout - a few incidents of dog fouling, not much

Cork Road Approach: Grade A. from Butlerstown Roundabout to WIT, Cork Road There were no visible litter issues along this busy route. Road surface, markings, signage were in good order, grass had recently been cut. NB broken stone fencing on the right hand side as one comes into Waterford.

Waterford Retail Park: Grade A. An exceptionally freshly presented retail environment with the pathway in front of the shops devoid of all litter. Apart from clusters of cigarette butts in the vast car park area the remainder of the area was spotless. Lovely tree planting throughout the car park. NB The fields at the end of the retail park and on the left as one enters were littered - if allowed to build up, it may well impact on the retail park itself.

IDA Waterford Industrial Estate: Grade A. Despite major construction work at one entrance and further upgrades throughout this very large industrial estate still managed to get top litter grade. Lovely planting in the immediate environs of Bausch and Lomb, they also sponsor the planting on a roundabout just outside one entrance to the industrial estate.

WIT / SETU Cork Road: Grade A. WIT has been rebranded as South East Technological University. Preparations are being made for the installation of 'shared bike scheme'. Plenty of litter bins at various entrances at seating area. There were no visible litter issues throughout the area surveyed. Planted areas in good order, very much deserving of the top litter grade.

Lady Lane: Grade A. A link street between Michael Street and runs along to Constitution Square and home to Waterford City Library building, old blended with new. Attractive paving throughout. Some boarded up / unsafe sites, but no litter directly associated with them.

Broad Street / Barronstrand: Grade A. Despite plenty of 'outdoor' dining / drinking and pedestrian traffic, this long stretch of 2 interconnecting shopping streets was exceptionally clean. Attractive paving throughout. Seating, planting, tree planting, colourful planter boxes, street furniture etc. were all in excellent order. Street cleaning / bin emptying at time of survey.

Riverwalk, along the Quays: Grade B. From the Bridge to Vincent Wallace Plaza. There was construction work along some of this site, but the litter wasn't directly associated with it. Many 'No Alcohol signs throughout, but based on alcohol cans / bottles, it is clearly being flouted. There was also very much a food related presence, along with dog fouling. Several incidents of graffiti on many different surfaces

Viking Triangle / Medieval Quarter: Grade A. Extensive area from Reginald's Tower to Constitution Square including Silver Museum / Bishop's Palace / Medieval Museum / Cathedral - it was all exceptionally well presented and well maintained. Planted area / sculptures at Constitution Square was lovely. Complete absence of litter throughout.

Grattan Quay: Grade B. A small stretch of riverwalk from The Bridge to sculpture / Waterford Distillery building. Road was closed to vehicular traffic but still activity along Grattan Quay. There was a definite litter presence along the path / kerb, some food items casually discarded.

Great Georges Street: Grade A. Pedestrianised city centre street with outdoor dining / drinking and colourful flower boxes. Brightly painted electricity boxes. Waterford Walls building.

Bring Facility at The Glen: Grade B. A small 'Bring' facility for glass bottles / cans. There were items stuffed between / broken glass on the ground and a bag of plastic bottles / containers had been discarded to the rear of the facility of the signage - there is no facility for the disposal of plastic. Broken glass on the ground.

Bus Eireann, The Quays: Grade A. The Bus Eireann Station takes littering very seriously, based on the number of litter awareness notices and reminders to use cigarette butt units. Attractive planting close to the entrance. It was spotless throughout.

Miscellaneous site at Bridge - diagonal to Train Station: Grade D. The area accessible to the public, to the front and the sides of the gate were riddled with not just litter, but also some dumping. It has been littered for quite some time, but it was worse this time around e.g., tent and larger items. A mix of food and alcohol related litter. This grade doesn't include the large volumes of dumping within the site itself.

Waterford / Plunkett Train Station: Grade A. As always, this train station was top ranking. Not only was it excellent with regard to litter, the whole environment was in very good condition e.g., bike parking / seating / signage / planted areas etc. Flower beds beside mural was sponsored. There was a complete absence of litter throughout.

Ferrybank Approach Road: Grade A. This busy route to the city was particularly good with regard to litter, apart from a couple of tiny items, it was very good. A former closed down garage which was beginning to harbour litter has been transformed since last visit and is now a car dealership and was not littered. Only one of the litter items below.

People's Park: Grade A. Regularly top ranking, the People's Park was especially good this time around - there was a complete absence of litter throughout, even at the Skateboard Park. 'Leave No Trace' signage on Big Belly Solar Bins. Some new dog fouling signage throughout. All aspects within the park were in very good order e.g., seating, picnic tables, playground equipment, bins etc. The PE equipment has been removed. A wonderful resource being enjoyed by many on a sunny Friday morning in May.

Waterford Courthouse Grounds: Grade A. The grounds of the Courthouse were spotless. Wonderful tree planting throughout.

Car Park opposite People's Park: Grade B. Large Waterford Wall mural of a Cat on a gable wall. Signage throughout relates to pay and display. Heavy cig butt presence in top corner and around perimeter. Other loose litter items around perimeter and wooden pallet discarded.

Former 'Woodpecker' Site, Dunmore Road: Grade B. Not quite as heavily littered as previous IBAL surveys but still a very definite litter presence and unkempt appearance. Well on its way to its former Grade C status if not carefully monitored.