

Galway City: 19th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

A strong performance by Galway City with over half the sites getting the top litter grade and just three seriously littered sites out of a total of twenty-five surveyed. With so many top-ranking sites, there are a few which deserve special mention: The Courthouse, Gateway Shopping Centre and associated Car Park, Shantalla Community Centre and two residential areas of Ballinfoyle Mews and Cluain Fada. Many sites just missed the top litter grade, little effort is required for the achievement of same e.g., Eyre Square, Shop Street, Town Hall Theatre and Market Street Car Park. By far the most heavily littered sites surveyed were Westside Amenity Park, Trinity National School (Radharc na Mara) and University Hospital Grounds – it was surprising to see the latter site so heavily littered as it has typically been a much cleaner site in previous IBAL surveys.

N83 Tuam Road Approach: Grade A. A freshly presented approach to the city with a virtual absence of litter throughout. Pavements and planted areas were in good order.

Westside Amenity Park: Grade C. This was one of the poorer ranking sites surveyed in Galway. A large expanse of park space with a variety of facilities / amenities within – running track, playing field, play equipment etc. – the majority of the park was in good order, but it was the widespread litter on the hill area which brought down the overall litter grade. Heavy levels of a wide variety of food related litter were present, along with lower levels of face-masks and alcohol cans / bottles.

Westside Recycle Bank: Grade B. The recycle bin units and the signage associated with same were in good order. Cardboard boxes and plastic bags had been stuffed between and beneath the units and smaller items were strewn on the ground in front of the units. Many of the units were full / overflowing.

Ashe Road: Grade A. A freshly presented and maintained residential area with minimal litter. Road surface and markings were in good order.

Shantalla Community Centre: Grade A. The planting, bicycle parking, signage, seating and overall presentation of the built environment were in good order. This facility was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

Aldi Shopping Centre, R338: Grade B. The paving / trolley bays in front of the shops had minimal litter but it was the litter on the grass area which brought down the litter grade – a wide variety of food and alcohol related items, along with cigarette butts / cartons were present. There were no visible litter bins in the area surveyed.

R336 Coast Road Approach: Grade A. All appeared in good order along this route with mature planting throughout. The overall impression was a clean and litter free one.

Recycle Facility – R336: Grade B. A large 'Bring' facility with extensive number of recycle units. The 'Enable Ireland' clothing units were particularly clean and freshly presented with no litter directly associated with same. It was the items (cardboard boxes / plastic bags) stuffed between the other units and some broken glass on the ground which brought down the litter grade. Signage associated with the use of the facility was in good order.

Gateway Shopping Centre: Grade A. An attractive shopping environment with lovely planting and paving. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order e.g., bicycle parking, litter bins, seating, etc. – it was a very clean and well-maintained environment.

Car Park at Gateway Shopping Centre: Grade A. Substantial planting around the car park takes away the 'bare' look that typically characterises a car park – this car park looked great and was well tended with minimal litter items.

GAA – Salthill Knocknacarra, Dr Mannix Road: Grade A. A well-maintained facility with a complete absence of litter throughout.

Salerno Secondary School: Grade A. All appeared in good order within the grounds of the school. Colourful flower boxes and planted were well maintained. Very much deserving of the top litter grade.

The Prom.: Grade B+. (from junction with Threadneedle Road to D'Arcy Roundabout). A very well-presented amenity with 'olde' style street lamps, plenty of dog fouling signage / facilities for the disposal of same, litter bins and opportunities to separate waste, seating, visitor information notices, bicycle parking etc. – all these elements were clean and in good order. With a little extra care on behalf of dog walkers this could easily be a top-ranking site.

Holy Trinity National School: Grade C. (Radharc na Mara). The majority of the grounds were in good order. One isolated area was in sharp contrast to the remainder of the grounds – this harboured heavy levels of a wide variety of food related litter, along with some alcohol cans / bottles.

N84 Headford Approach Road: Grade A. Road surface / markings and signage were in good condition and the overall impression along this freshly presented route was a very clean one. Clear and legible 'No Dumping' signage.

Ballinfoyle Mews: Grade A. There were no visible litter issues throughout this small residential development. All appeared in good order.

Cluain Fada: Grade A. Communal grass areas were recently mown and clear of litter. There was virtually no litter throughout the remainder of this residential estate.

R864 Newcastle Road: Grade B. There was a definite litter presence along the side adjacent to the hospital and in the area close to the bus stop – face masks, coffee cups and plastic bottles were most obvious, with lower levels of other food related items and alcohol cans. There didn't appear to be any visible street bins along the stretch surveyed.

University Hospital Grounds: Grade C. It was quite surprising to see such heavy levels of litter at this site as it typically scored far better in previous IBAL surveys. There was a variety of food / alcohol related items, along with cigarette butts, face-masks and cardboard. Some of the black litter bins were full / overflowing.

Courthouse: Grade A. The built environment was very attractively presented maintained. All aspects associated with the area were in very good order e.g., paving, litter bins, bicycle parking, tree planting etc. There was a complete absence of litter in the immediate environs of the Courthouse.

Town Hall Theatre: Grade B+. This site just missed the top litter grade – there were too many loose food related items and cigarette butts. This took away from an otherwise well-presented environment.

Market Street Car Park: Grade B+. The main surface area of the car park was fine with regard to litter but it was the area around the perimeter which brought down the litter grade – food and cigarette related items. Weed growth was significant in one corner location.

Shop Street: Grade B+. There was some nice paving along some parts of this street with chewing gum particularly pronounced on the black surface. Individual premises were in good order. Not much effort is required for this site to get the top litter grade.

Sculpture at William Street: Grade A. The sculpture and the immediate environment were in excellent condition with a complete absence of litter.

Eyre Square: Grade B+. An exceptionally freshly presented environment with all aspects in very good condition e.g., paving, planted areas, seating, litter bins, signage, small playground, sculpture, large expanse of grass etc. A quick clean up is all that is required for the top litter grade.