

Waterford City: 12th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed.

A typically strong result for Waterford City, again Ireland's cleanest city. What is so encouraging is that a previously highlighted site has since been addressed – the Miscellaneous site at the Bridge. The shopping area of Broad Street / Barronstrand was excellent in terms of overall streetscape e.g. paving, seating, planting, signage etc and very much deserving of the top litter grade. The Viking Triangle was spotless throughout. Based on the amount of litter / cigarette butt notices and the lack of litter at Bus Eireann Bus Station, it is clear that litter is taken very seriously. The People's Park and the grounds of the Court House were excellent. By far the most heavily littered site surveyed – a litter blackpost - was the Bring Centre at Tesco, Ardkeen – it wasn't just casually littered but subject to dumping.

R448 Newrath Approach Road: Grade A. A very freshly presented route with very minimal litter items throughout. A very good first impression of Waterford City and this was maintained for many of the remainder of the sites surveyed.

Cork Road Approach: Grade A. An exceptionally freshly presented route with excellent road surfaces / markings. No visible litter issues throughout the stretch of road surveyed.

Waterford Retail Park: Grade B+. This extensive retail park was, in the main, an exceptionally clean environment, except for a corner site with the adjoining field. This takes away from what is otherwise a very clean and well-maintained car park and shopping area with all aspects in very good condition e.g., paving, litter bins, etc.

IDA Industrial Estate: Grade A. This vast industrial expanse has had major road resurfacing work since last IBAL survey - creates a very fresh impression. A welcome addition is the new bicycle path. Attractive planting at Bausch & Lomb looks great. Overall, this area was very much deserving of the top litter grade - it was spotless throughout.

TUSE / WIT Cork Road: Grade A. A recent and welcome addition to the campus is the TFI Bike Share Scheme. The campus is exceptionally well served by litter bins, typically two at each building entrance. There is a dedicated smoking area with associated butt facilities. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout - just one or two of food related items, face-masks and alcohol cans.

Bus Eireann Bus Station: Grade A. For a number of years this city centre bus station has been top ranking - things were no different this time around. There is an abundance of litter awareness notices, bins and cigarette butt units. Planted area to the front of the station looked well. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good condition e.g., signage, seating, bins etc.

Bring Facility at Tesco, Ardkeen: Grade D. This facility wasn't just casually littered but dumping had taken place - particularly between the clothing banks where upwards of half a dozen black sacks were piled up. The area to the front of the bottle / can units was lightly littered with heavier levels to the rear.

Derelict building / site - former Woodpecker: Grade B. While not as heavily littered as previous IBAL surveys, this site still presents poorly - and could easily slide to seriously littered status if not monitored carefully.

Ardkeen Village: Grade B. A series of interconnecting residential roads, the majority of which were spotless. It was the litter along the main thoroughfare which brought down an otherwise well-presented and maintained environment. Not much effort is required for the top litter grade.

Riverwalk: Grade A. from Edmund Rice Bridge to Wallace Memorial. Extensive enhancement works have taken place along this riverside environment - attractive new paving looks very well. All aspects of the area surveyed were in excellent condition e.g., signage, life-belts, seating, planted areas etc. - it was excellent with regard to litter.

Plunkett / Waterford Train Station: Grade A. An excellent site, as always. All aspects were not just devoid of litter but very well presented and maintained. Lots of lovely planting greets anybody arriving by train and plenty of visitor information notices.

Ferrybank Approach Road: Grade B+. Much of this fast-moving route was clear of litter but there was a small presence of mostly food and alcohol related items, too many for the top litter grade.

Miscellaneous site at Bridge: Grade A. (Diagonally, opposite train station). This miscellaneous site at the bridge had been heavily littered in previous IBAL surveys. This time around it was a much improved site with a virtual absence of litter. Clearly a careful eye is required to prevent deterioration to previous status.

Waterford Court House: Grade A. The grounds of Waterford Courthouse were spotless throughout! A lovely green space which was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

Edmund Rice Centre: Grade A. The Edmund Rice Centre was very much deserving of the top litter grade. There was a complete absence of litter throughout. The grounds / memorial were beautifully maintained.

Barronstrand / Broad Street: Grade A. An exceptionally clean city centre shopping street with attractive paving throughout. The Winter Carnival is up and running and have provided extra bins - no litter was associated with this. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good condition.

Viking Triangle: Grade A. This large historic quarter was as exceptionally well presented and maintained - and spotless throughout. There is clearly great pride in this area, and it has been fittingly attended with excellent visitor information notices.

Great George's Street: Grade A. Much of the street had been devoted to temporary Christmas Market and associated market huts - there was no litter directly associated with them. The remainder of the street was also spotless, with lovely paving underfoot.

Bolton Street Car Park: Grade A. A freshly presented and maintained car par environment with excellent surface / paving. The illustrated visitor information signage was particularly attractive. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

People's Park: Grade A. A lovely city centre resource which has been very well presented and, on the whole, well respected by the users - just some occasional graffiti on the park signage. The numerous facilities within were in very good order e.g., seating, new PE equipment, skate park, playground, playing fields etc - the whole area was excellent with regard to litter.

Bring Facility at Bolton Street Car Park: Grade B+. A very small facility with bins / signage freshly presented. The area was let down by the very deliberate placing of a semi-full black sack to the rear of the plastic bottle unit.

Kingfisher Sports Facility: Grade A. A very clean and well-maintained environment - much improved from a few years ago when it was a heavily littered site.

Waterford Nature Reserve / Kilbarry Park: Grade A. An extraordinarily clean site - there was just one mineral can throughout an entire 2km route! The elevated area has recently been adorned with wooden sculptures. There were opportunities to separate waste in the car-park and the signage relating to use of the facility / Areas Managed for Biodiversity / etc. was in good order. This parkland is a credit to the users and those responsible for the maintenance of same. Poorly sign posted for public access - you would never just stumble upon this if driving along the main road!!

Tramore Approach Road: Grade A. A virtual absence of litter along this fast-moving route. Some of the shrubbery on the right side has been cut back, revealing some 'long-lie' litter but not much. Road surface / markings / signage were in good order.

Miscellaneous site beside Vee Car Park: Grade B. Please note, the main Vee Car Park was fine. It was the 'miscellaneous' site beside it which presented poorly and harboured litter both with the site and around the perimeter. This is well on its way to seriously littered status if not addressed. Where does responsibility for this site lie?