

Ballymun: 30th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered

A strong performance by Ballymun with notable improvements at some formerly heavily littered sites e.g., Ballymun Green Car Park. There was plenty of evidence of community initiatives e.g., Better Ballymun posters / Trinity Comprehensive school poetry project / Climate themed Traffic Light Box Art / Trinity Comprehensive History Trail and Tidy Towns sponsored planter boxes. Ballymun Road and Ballymun Town Centre were very much deserving of the top litter grade. The two most heavily littered sites have been stubbornly so for many years – Balbutcher Lane and the Bring Facility at Shangan Road.

Ballymun Sports & Leisure: Grade B. While not quite as heavily littered as previous IBAL surveys, there was still a very definite litter presence within the gates of the sports centre - a variety of food related items prevailed, most particularly pizza boxes (with birds foraging on the remnants), plastic bottles, mineral cans, accumulations of cigarette butts and a couple of vaping devices.

Santry Approach Road: Grade B+. (From Aldi / Welcome to Ballymun signage) Much of the route was fine with regard to litter but it was impossible to ignore the food related items (sweet papers, mineral cans, fast-food wrappers and plastic bottles) and plastic wrapping closer to Ballymun.

Balbutcher Lane: Grade C. The main thoroughfare from Ballymun was reasonably clear of litter. It was at the three entrances to the former Ballymun Towers where the really heavy litter issues lay. The 'No Dumping' signs at each gate have been completely disregarded. Heavy levels of a wide variety of food related and domestic waste prevailed behind the railings / gates. Closer to the shops (pharmacy) there were 2 discarded shopping trolleys and a broken child's scooter.

Bottle / Clothing Bank, Shangan Road: Grade C. Rarely has this small on-street facility every been anything but heavily littered. Not only were bags stuffed between the units, but the contents of domestic rubbish were strewn on the ground to the rear. Random clothing items (e.g., shoe / sock / etc) were at the base of the units. Overall, the units themselves presented poorly and a negative impression was created at this small facility.

Ballymun Road: Grade B+. A very long stretch of road, the majority of which was very good with regard to litter. The Ballymun Library side of the road was generally cleaner than the opposite side of the road. There was plenty of evidence of community initiatives e.g., Better Ballymun posters / Trinity Comprehensive school poetry project / Climate themed Traffic Light Box Art / Trinity Comprehensive History Trail and Tidy Towns sponsored planter boxes along the central median. The large planter boxes were in very good order.

Ballymun Town Centre: Grade A. The area surveyed included the Axis Centre / Ballymun Civic Centre and environs. The built environment was freshly presented. Seating, planter boxes, signage etc. were all in very good order - there was minimal litter throughout, but cigarette butts at the base of the seating was an obvious issue. Perhaps the provision of more cigarette butt units in the immediate area of the seating could address this?

Ballymun Green Car Park: Grade A. A freshly presented street level car park with car park surface / markings / signage in good order. The overall impression was of a much cleaner car park than previous IBAL surveys.

R108 from M50: Grade B. The Tidy Towns planter boxes along the central median are a lovely welcoming feature and add some colour in quite a built-up area. Litter items were most obvious on the right-hand side as one comes from M50, with birds feasting on various discarded food containers.

St. Margaret's Road: Grade A. (from IKEA / Decathlon). A vastly improved road compared to a number of years ago. Former abandoned / wasteland sites have since been developed / continue to be developed. Road works were also taking place - none of this has impacted in any negative way on the litter situation.

Owensilla Terrace: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along this residential stretch. Road surface / paving were very fresh and there were plenty of planter boxes throughout, some adding a lovely splash of colour.