

Bray: Joint 13th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms

A very strong performance by Bray on its return to the League with seven out of the ten sites surveyed getting the top litter grade and just one heavily littered site – the latter was at Dargle Road / Upper Dargle Road which has been cited in many previous IBAL surveys. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the vacant properties along the Main Street as there was no litter directly associated with them. 'Bray Central' is a very recent addition to the town – an exceptionally freshly presented and maintained town centre shopping environment with attractive planting and a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

Vevay Approach Road: Grade A. The overall impression was a good one with regard to litter, with just a few items on a long stretch of road. There were several Big Belly Solar bins throughout the area surveyed.

Dublin Approach Road: Grade A. All appeared in good order along the main approach from the direction of Shankill. Expanse of grass / planted areas on the left were welcoming features and work had been done to 'take away the bare look' of a derelict building on the right-hand side.

Dargle Road / Upper Dargle Road: Grade C. The Dargle Road stretch had a wide variety of scattered food related items (particularly across the road from Egan Business Centre) but it was the Upper Dargle Road stretch which really brought down the litter grade. There were several separate pockets of heavily littered areas on the left-hand side as one approaches the town - not just casual litter but miscellaneous items e.g., shopping trolleys and other items. These would not be immediately visible to the passing driver and the remainder of the route was fine with regard to litter.

Bray Recycle Centre: Grade A. A 'managed' facility which was generally well presented and maintained, apart from cardboard / plastic bags stuffed between the bottle / can units. The planted / seating area within the grounds was in good order.

Aldi, Pinewood Close: Grade B+. The overall presentation was very fresh and well maintained. It was mostly excellent with regard to litter but let down by a series of small items along the car parking stretch, parallel to the store building. This could easily be a top-ranking site with a little extra care and attention.

Main Street: Grade A. Exceptionally fresh main shopping street environment with lovely paving throughout. Work was taking place on some vacant / closed down premises but there were still several others along the Main Street - clearly a close eye is kept on them as they didn't impact in any negative way on the litter situation. Stainless steel bollards, bicycle parking, wooden seating and visitor information notices were all in very good condition and there were just a couple of tiny incidents of graffiti.

Street level Car Park, Mermaid Arts Centre: Grade B. NB it is the street level car park and not the underground car park which was surveyed. This small street level car park had a light scattering of litter on the car park surface, but it was the heavier levels at the base of a tree in the corner which brought down the overall litter grade.

'Bray Central': Grade A. This is a very recent addition to Bray, developed since Bray was last included in IBAL survey. The former street level car park has been transformed into a very attractive environment with lovely paving and planting. Footfall was very low with only a couple of premises operating at time of survey. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

Bray Town Park: Grade A. A fantastic site! You could count on one hand the number of litter items throughout this vast expanse of parkland. There was a hint of late spring in the air with grass cutting taking place at time of survey. Area was further enhanced by a wonderful array of daffodils throughout. Graffiti was a feature on many different surfaces e.g., seating, signage, poles and the walls of the building within the park.

River Walk: Grade A. Area surveyed was from Bray Town Park up to the railway line. There were very few items along an extensive stretch of pathway. Area was enhanced by some lovely low-lying planting. Two of the life-belts were missing. Graffiti was a feature throughout, even on the large piece of sculpture.