

Cork Northside: 38th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Littered.

Cork Northside has slipped back from its positive end-of-year showing, with too few clean sites and several heavily littered ones. Top ranking sites included Shandon Street, Cathedral Walk, Blackpool Shopping District and Colm Cille Park – the latter was a lovely green space which has been very well presented and maintained. The very heavily littered sites didn't get into this state overnight – e.g., Cushing Place, the corner of Upper Fairhill & Fairfield Meadows and the site beside 13 Cathedral Walk – all had suffered long-term abuse and neglect.

Popham's Road: Grade B. Dog fouling and sweet wrappers were the most obvious litter type, with lower levels of plastic bottles and mineral cans. There didn't appear to be any litter bins / litter awareness notices / dog fouling notices or facilities for the disposal of same. There was some graffiti on the red wall, just below the road signage.

Shandon Street: Grade A. Overall, Shandon Street was deserving of the top litter grade. The fairly recent road resurfacing / markings were freshly presented. Most of minor visible litter items were to be seen along the 'older' pavement / along the kerbs. 'There were some lovely colourful murals, but not all vacant / derelict properties presented as well. Cork Walks / Shandon Street Area' signage had graffiti. Area was enhanced by attractive street planters.

Cushing Place: Grade D. The 'No Dumping – Hidden Cameras in Operation' signage was defaced, pretty much setting the tone for this particular site – wall beneath this sign was covered in graffiti. Very large amounts of a wide variety of casually discarded litter, along with plastic bags of rubbish had been discarded. There was evidence of burnt items.

Corner of Upper Fairhill and Fairfield Meadows: Grade D. This site wasn't so much littered but subject to dumping – recent and old, indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time. By virtue of the fact that these items are over a low wall, it is not immediately apparent to passers-by. It was characterised by general domestic rubbish and dumping of household goods.

Colm Cille Park: Grade A. Signage at the park entrance was freshly presented and in good condition. Within the park itself, the overall impression was a very good one – litter bins, seating, paving, PE Equipment etc. were in very good order. There were plenty of litter bins throughout. A lovely feature was the 'Poetry in the Park Collection'. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout this park environment.

Upper Fairhill: Grade B. The cutting of grass before the removal of litter has resulted in 'chopped-up' litter. The overall impression created at this residential area was a littered one with a variety of food related items present – it was particularly pronounced at the bus stop.

Cathedral Road: Grade C+. A significantly littered site. Main items were food related, along with dog fouling. Litter was persistent throughout, with occasional accumulations e.g. bus stop No. 236961

Baker's Road: Grade C+. The overall impression along Baker's Road was of a very obvious litter presence, along the pavements / kerbs / grass areas / parking areas beside the shops at Credit Union and Garda Station. Much of it was seemingly 'fresh' and recently dropped. There didn't appear to be any visible litter bins / litter awareness notices in the immediate area.

Blackpool Shopping District: Grade A. A very freshly presented shopping centre environment with all aspects in good order e.g., paving, bollards, railings, car park surface / markings and surrounding grass / planted areas. It was excellent with regard to litter.

Templecare Avenue: Grade C. A narrow road, lined with significant litter at the base of the wall – the most obvious items were food related, with lower levels of alcohol cans / bottles. This will only deteriorate further if not addressed.

Commons Road: Grade B+. There were some stretches of this road which were freshly presented, others less so. Sweet wrappers were on the grass verges and cigarette butts were obvious on the kerbs at the traffic lights.

North City Link Road: Grade A. Road surface / markings / signage were freshly presented with a virtual absence of litter. Some items were recorded at the steps at the gate to Heineken building – care needs to be taken that this doesn't develop further.

Site beside 13 Cathedral Walk: Grade D+. This site wasn't just casually littered but subject to dumping – an eye-sore for children playing in the school yard directly opposite. Such sites are likely to attract further dumping.

Cathedral Walk: Grade A. There were no litter issues of note along the main stretch of Cathedral Walk. One house / garden presents poorly but there was no build-up of litter that can so easily happen at such a site.

Roman Street: Grade A. There were minimal litter items along Roman Steet.