

Waterford City: 11th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms

The customary splendid result for Waterford - some of the city centre sites deserve special mention as they are not only very good with regard to litter, but exceptionally well presented and maintained. These included Arundel Square, Broad Street / Barron Strand, The Mall, John Street and the Viking Triangle / Museum Quarter – what sets these and other top-ranking sites apart is the attention to detail in the overall presentation of same with regard to paving, bollards, bicycle parking, street bins, seating, tree planting etc. The People's Park was, as always, an excellent site – ditto with Plunkett Train Station and Bus Eireann station along the Quays. The Waterford Greenway Car Park (Bilberry) was spotless but the roadway outside harboured some food related items. The Apple Market Public Car Park presented poorly – there was evidence of long-lie and recent litter around the perimeter of the car park. While the Bring Facility at Tesco Extra (beside Ardkeen Village) and the 'Woodpecker site' on Dunmore Road were not quite as heavily littered as previous litter surveys, there was still a very pronounced presence.

R448 NewRath Approach Road: Grade A. A sweeping entrance to Waterford City with no visible litter. Road surface / markings / signage were in very good order.

Ardnashee / Clan Glas: Grade A. This residential area consisted of a series of interconnecting roads with various communal grass areas. All aspects within the area surveyed were in very good order and it was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

Waterford Greenway Car Park, Bilberry: Grade A. An exceptionally well presented and maintained car park facility. Car park surface / markings / signage were in good order. Signage associated with the Greenway was bright and colourful. An added bonus was the water re-fill facility – great to see that provided along a route for cyclists / walkers.

Road outside Greenway Car Park: Grade B. While the Greenway Car Park was an exceptionally well presented and maintained site, the same can't be said for the road outside the car park. There was a very definite litter presence lining the base of the shrubbery directly opposite the car park – this was primarily food related.

Aldi, Cork Road: Grade A. This was a very freshly presented environment with a strong emphasis on planting within the grounds – a welcome feature in a car park environment. The whole area looked very well and there was an absence of litter throughout.

Apple Market Public Car Park: Grade C+. The signage relating to the use of this street level car park was the only aspect which was freshly presented and in good order. The remainder of the car park presented poorly with heavy levels of a wide variety of litter lining the perimeter, particularly along the right-hand side. It was a mix of recent and long-lie, indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time.

Arundel Square: Grade A. A small city centre environment with attractive paving, seating and signage. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the closed down premises as there was no litter directly associated with them. The overall impression was of a very freshly presented and well-maintained environment.

Bring Centre, Little Patrick Street Car Park: Grade B. A small 'Bring Facility' for bottles / cans and Clothing. The bottle / can section was fine, but it was the clothing facility which really brought down the litter grade, almost to seriously littered status. Clothing items were literally 'hanging' out of the unit and other clothing items had been discarded to the rear.

The Mall: Grade A. This stretch of road is very well presented and maintained and certainly a pleasant environment for any visitors to the Waterford Glass Visitor Centre. Persons of historic note have been marked e.g., Brigadier General Thomas Francis Meagher / Signage from Wolfe Tone Club etc. Paving / planting / visitor information signage / bicycle parking / bollards and street bins. The 3D model of the Viking Triangle is a lovely feature. The whole area was exceptionally clean throughout.

Viking Triangle: Grade A. The whole stretch from Reginald's Tower, along by The Silver Museum, Medieval Museum, Bishop's Place / Café, Cathedral and planted area with various sculptures was completely free of litter. 'Works' were taking place at the planted area and there was no litter directly associated with same. This area is always a delight to visit and a credit to those responsible for the presentation and maintenance of same.

Broad Street / Barronstrand: Grade A. All aspects of this main shopping thoroughfare were in very good order e.g., attractive paving, bicycle parking, seating, tree planting, sculpture feature and litter bins. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed. It is rare to see a busy shopping environment so clean – congratulations to all concerned.

Miscellaneous site beside The Vee Car Park: Grade B. This site has been littered in previous surveys and this time around it would seem that there has been some new 'anti-litter' notice erected. While the litter levels were perhaps not quite as heavy as previous surveys, there was still a very definite presence, mostly food related e.g., sweet papers, mineral cans and fast-food wrappers. Clearly it is an area that requires constant attention to prevent a further build-up.

John Street: Grade A. A very attractively presented city centre street, much of it pedestrianised with a large 'covered' area for gatherings. This area was spotless, with just some cigarette butts casually deposited in the empty planter boxes further along the street. There were plenty of litter bins along John Street – this certainly appears to be having the desired effect as there was an absence of litter throughout.

Bus Eireann, The Quays: Grade A. This is one of the few sites which actually asks smokers to 'Please use the Cigarette Bin Provided' and there were plenty of facilities for the disposal of same. This, combined with plenty of other litter awareness notices and litter bins appears to be doing the job as this site has been top ranking on many previous IBAL survey visits. There was some nice low-lying planting towards the entrance of the station.

Plunkett / Waterford Train Station: Grade A. For any passengers arriving by train, they are greeted by some lovely planting and a wall mural just opposite the entrance / exit. There were no visible litter issues throughout the external areas of the station. A 'No Smoking' symbol was painted on the ground, just outside the station entrance.

Riverwalk: Grade A. (from The Tower Hotel to Edmund Rice Bridge). An extensive stretch of riverwalk (apart from the boarded-up area), which was attractively presented and maintained. The recently paved area closer to the bridge looked very well and was enhanced with new tree planting. Seating, visitor information notices, dog fouling facilities, life-belts, etc. were all in very good order. It was exceptionally good with regard to litter, only one incident of dog fouling throughout – great to see so much dog fouling signage and facilities for the disposal of same.

Ferrybank Approach: Grade A. (from Texaco filling station to Edmund Rice Bridge) There was minimal litter along this busy stretch of road leading into Waterford City. The former garage on the left side has had a few incarnations and is seemingly unoccupied at time of survey – there was some litter here and this could easily accumulate if not monitored carefully.

People's Park: Grade A. Work has continued apace at the wonderful People's Park. The PE Equipment has been re-located and is now surrounded by some lovely tree planting. The added benefit of positioning it beside the Skate Park is that those using the Skate Park may be included to also use the PE Equipment, as was the case at the time of this survey. All other aspects of the park environment were in very good order e.g., playground equipment, seating, picnic tables, paving etc. It was spotless throughout.

R680 Cork Road Approach: Grade A. A busy approach route into the city, passing through a series of car dealerships and various commercial premises before coming through residential area. Apart from an abandoned shopping trolley there were no visible litter issues along this route and there was no litter of note at a closed down / run down property on the right-hand side.

Bolands Retail Park – JYSK / Iceland / Affordable Luxury etc: Grade B. On first appearance this small retail park environment was OK with regard to litter. A further exploration around the perimeter of the car parking area revealed very heavy accumulations of cigarette butts, with lower levels of other litter items e.g., vaping device, sweet papers and fast-food wrappers. There were some 'anti-litter' notices, positioned very low to the ground within the car park. Perhaps, more obvious anti-litter / anti cigarette butt notices and the provision of facilities for the disposal of same may help?

IDA Industrial Estate: Grade A. A great feature of the fairly recent resurfacing of the roadway throughout the industrial estate is the provision of the bicycle path. Some areas have been attractively enhanced with some lovely planting. A seemingly 'closed down' facility didn't appear to have any visible litter associated with it – clearly a careful eye is kept on it.

SETU / WIT Campus, Cork Road: Grade A. This campus is very well served by litter bins, particularly at the entrances to the various buildings. The grounds were very well presented and maintained a great to see the Bike Share scheme on site.

Bring Facility, Tesco Extra: Grade C+. (beside Ardkeen Village) On first impressions, this facility didn't look as heavily littered as previous IBAL surveys. However, plastic bags / cardboard boxes had been stuffed between the numerous units and further exploration revealed heavy litter levels (including clothing and other miscellaneous items) to the rear of the units. It was almost hazardous to use the facility, given the amount of broken glass on the ground to the front of the units.

'Woodpecker' site on Dunmore Road: Grade C+. Litter was beginning to accumulate at this 'To Let' site – mostly plastic bottles, sweet papers and fast-food wrappers. The overall impression is a poor one. There has been little change to the litter status at this site over a long number of years.

Newtown Approach Road: Grade A. There were no visible litter issues along this route – creates a positive first impression of Waterford City and this high standard is sustained for much of the remainder of the sites surveyed.