

Galway Inner City- Ballybane: 30th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered.

A positive result for Ballybane, especially compared to a number of years ago when it was very much towards the bottom of the league. This time around there was just one heavily littered site, at Castlepark - considerably less than the previous IBAL litter surveys. Two of the most notable improvements were at Ballybane Village and Ballybane Industrial Estate – while they were both still somewhat littered it's certainly a big improvement on their former 'blackspot' status. The residential area of Clareview Park, Glassan – Student Accommodation and Organic Community Garden were all very much deserving of the top litter grade.

Ballybane Road, approach: Grade B+. The overall impression along this route was generally a positive one with well-tended grass areas and a very welcoming impression. It just missed the top litter grade – too many recently discarded food related items (e.g., plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers, sweet papers) and cigarette butts prevented the top litter grade.

Glassan, Student Village: Grade A. This was an excellent site in terms of overall presentation and maintenance. All aspects were in good order. Area was enhanced by some colourful planer boxes. It was excellent with regards to litter. It would seem that this is a very well cared for and managed facility.

Castlepark Road, approach: Grade B. Almost all of the litter present along this road was food related – plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers, mineral cans and sweet papers, along with some plastic bags and tissues. It was scattered along the length of the road, mostly recently dropped items. This took away from the well-tended grass and pavements which were in good condition.

Castlepark: Grade C. This was by far the most heavily littered site in Ballybane this time around. The overall impression wasn't just littered but also subject to neglect and vandalism e.g., burnt out fire site with partly burned plastic, along with the dumping of various household items e.g., bedframe. Such sites can quickly deteriorate further if not addressed / allowed to develop.

Organic Community Garden: Grade A. All appeared in good order within this community space. There was a complete absence of litter throughout. Clear Dog Fouling / No Dumping signage was attached to the green fencing. Well done to all concerned.

Clareview Park: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter within this residential area. Large and colourful dog fouling signage 'What's Your Dog Up to, Clean it up, you Dirty Pup' signage was displayed.

Ballybane Village: Grade B. This site had improved considerably, compared to many previous IBAL surveys. Hopefully this upward trajectory can continue. This time around the litter was mostly confined to the perimeter shrubbery. The open space around the development was much improved.

St. Brigid's Church: Grade B+. Another site which was much improved compared to a new of years ago – this time around it just missed the top litter grade. Almost all of the litter was food related, along with some plastic trays.

Old Ballybrit Road: Grade B+. A lovely feature along this road was the old-fashioned water pump, painted a bright red colour. Plastic bottles and mineral cans were obvious but apart from this, not much effort is required for the top litter grade.

Ballybane Industrial Estate: Grade B. Another Ballybane site which had improved considerably – the individual industrial units were mostly well maintained. The perimeter is no longer choked with litter, just lower levels than the past. However, sites like these do require constant attention to prevent deterioration to previous status. An old fridge / freezer was being used as a bin for large items – this is likely to attract further discarding / abandoning of items. Ballybane Industrial Estate could easily slide back to Grade C / D status.