

Waterford - Ballybeg: 15th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

Ballybeg has again scored very well this time around with six out of the ten sites getting the top litter grade, three just missing it and only one seriously littered site. Examples of some of the top-ranking sites included the approach routes, Ballybeg Playground / Park, the approach routes and the residential area of Meadowbank. A lovely addition to the area was the signage indicating the newly developed / revamped Ballybeg Community Allotments. By far the most heavily littered site was the shrubbery along the road between Ballybeg Community Allotments and Ballybeg Park – some bags had been dumped within.

Ballybeg Drive approach: Grade A. There were no litter issues of note along this route between Waterford Fire Station and Ballybeg.

Ballybeg Drive Roundabout to Ballybeg Link Road Roundabout: Grade A. This route was particularly freshly presented with road surface / markings / signage in very good order. There was a virtual absence of litter along this stretch.

Meadowbank: Grade A. The overall impression created at this residential development was generally a good one with regards to litter. It wasn't spotless, there were light scatterings throughout, but it is an extensive area, so the overall impression was a virtual absence of litter. Any minor items were food related e.g., sweet papers, mineral cans and plastic bottles.

Ballybeg Community Allotments: Grade A. Colourful and eye-catching signage alerts any visitors to this new / redeveloped site, a HSE / Healthy Ireland / Waterford Council / Government / Healthy Communities initiative. All appeared in good order within the community garden / allotments.

Ballybeg Playground / Park: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter in this lovely park environment. New additions include the 'Communications Board' with plenty of colourful visuals – a collaboration between Waterford Sports Partnership / Waterford City & County Council and Children's Disability Network team.

'Bring Bank', Tesco, Ballybeg: Grade A. This facility got the top litter grade, but only just. Some plastic bags had been stuffed between the units. The units themselves were freshly presented and the signage associated with the usage of the facility was in very good order. A new feature was the 'QR Code' to scan if the bin units were full, certainly a welcome feature compared to 'ring the following number if the bin units are full'.

Ballybeg Stores & Environs: Grade B+. The area leading to and directly outside the store entrance had too many loose litter items for the top litter grade, mostly food related, along with vape items and shop receipts.

Ardmore Park: Grade B+. The grassy area to the front of the houses was generally fine with regards to litter. Any visible litter items were along the pavements surrounding the grassy area. Items included sweet papers, mineral cans and fast-food wrappers.

Tesco Car Park: Grade B+. A vast expanse of car park, the majority of which was spotless, particularly the large area to the front of the store. Any visible litter items were to the side of the store and at the base of the perimeter shrubbery, mostly food related items, along with some cigarette butts.

Shrubbery between Ballybeg Community Allotments and Ballybeg: Grade C. This small stretch of road was in sharp contrast to the other sites surveyed in Ballybeg – it wasn't just casually littered but bags of rubbish had been dumped / discarded within the shrubbery. This is only likely to attract similar behaviour if not addressed.