

Cork City Centre: 28th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered.

Major works / regeneration projects have taken place over the last while in Cork City and this has certainly been reflected in the overall presentation of many of the sites surveyed, resulting in an improved result in the IBAL survey. This time around over half of the sites surveyed got the top litter grade – a big achievement. Examples included notable improvement at Bridge Street with recent works almost complete, resulting in a very freshly presented city centre environment; MacCurtain Street was looking very well, much work has been done on streetscape / planting; Horgan's Quay was looking very well – previously Alfred Street. Port Lane was gleaming and spotless throughout. There were far fewer heavily littered sites, but Kennedy Quay, Anderson Quay, Railway Street / Penrose Quay and Caroline Street were poor. By far the most heavily littered site was William Street.

St. Patrick Street: Grade B+. A very freshly presented city centre thoroughfare. Paving, bicycle parking and general streetscape looked very well. There were too many food related items and cigarette butts / vaping devices for the top litter grade. With a little extra effort, this could be achieved.

William Street: Grade D+. William Street is in very sharp contrast to the adjoining Patrick Street. It was by far the most heavily littered of those surveyed in Cork City. It presents poorly with obvious graffiti and very heavy litter levels, mostly food related (e.g. coffee cups, fast-food wrappers and mineral cans) with lower levels of other food items. Cigarette butts / vaping devices were also present. Perhaps once all the 'works' have taken place this / white vans have finished up, this site will be thoroughly cleaned.

Cook Street: Grade A. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the various vacant premises along this street as there was no litter directly associated with them – apart from large pieces of cardboard in various doorways.

Washington Street: Grade B+. (from Grand Parade to junction with South Main Street) The Traffic Light Box Art is a welcome feature amongst a street with many vacant / run down buildings and plenty of graffiti. There was minimal litter throughout, and hopefully this doesn't develop any further.

Lynch's Street: Grade B. This street was somewhat mixed in terms of presentation. The recently redeveloped / repaved area was very freshly presented and devoid of litter. It was the other end which harboured litter, mostly food related but significant levels of cigarette butts, especially at the entrance to the 'Outpatients Department' – perhaps the provision of cigarette butt unit might help.

Mardyke Walk: Grade A. The overall impression created along this tree-lined route was a positive one. There were very minimal visible litter issues throughout.

Kennedy Quay: Grade C+. (The area surveyed excluded the derelict buildings.) The public realm was significantly littered, all manner of food related items, along with significant alcohol cans / bottles, some of which were broken, creating a hazard. The overall impression created here was a poor one.

Victoria Road: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along this approach route to the city. One of the premises deserves special mention as it has taken great care with the overall presentation of same: Goldbergs Pub – large planter boxes are a lovely addition to the area.

Port Lane: Grade A. This site was gleaming! Newly developed site where no expense was spared in the overall presentation of same – it was spotless throughout. Mature tree planting and paving looked very well.

Eamon De Valera Bridge: Grade A. The bridge name plaque was in very condition. The bridge and immediate environs were very good with regards to litter.

Anderson Quay: Grade C. This was a mixed site in terms of presentation with some parts much fresher and others in various state of decline. There were moderate levels of litter throughout the area, but it was the significant accumulations of 'long-lie' litter behind the railings next to the bridge which really brought down the overall litter grade. It would seem that this area is not subject to the same level of cleaning regime as the rest of Anderson Quay. Where does responsibility for this particular location lie?

Bridge Street: Grade A. Improvement works are almost complete the result of this is a very freshly presented city centre environment. The corner building 'Cork English College' looked particularly well. Paving, bicycle parking, 'olde' style street lamps, tree planting etc. were in very good condition. There was a virtual absence of litter along Bridge Street.

MacCurtain Street: Grade A. This is another city centre street where major works / improvements have taken place. MacCurtain Street was looking very well, and the greenery / tree planting is a very welcome addition. There were minimal litter items throughout, some minor items in the shrubbery next to Patrick's Hill.

Kent Station: Grade B. The concourse to the front of the station with paving / bicycle parking was freshly presented. The most obvious litter items were train tickets and cigarette butts, with lower levels of coffee cups, sweet papers and vaping devices. Right beneath the 'No Smoking' sign was a bunch of cigarette butts.

Horgan's Quay: Grade B. The majority of this recently redeveloped area was exceptionally freshly presented and maintained with excellent streetscape. The area next to 'The Dean' hotel was spotless. The area around the corner / at the bike stand / at the board close to entrance to Kent Station was littered – a variety of food and cigarette related items / vaping devices were present. It would seem that these areas are not as thoroughly cleaned as those surrounding them.

Railway Street / Penrose Quay: Grade C. Heavy levels of a wide variety of items have made their way onto this corner site, mostly food items. Plastic barriers surround some, but not all of the corner location, allowing for easy access of people / wind blown litter.

Penrose Dock: Grade A. Attractive signage underfoot greets any visitors to this very new development – all was in excellent condition e.g. paving, planted areas, signage etc. It was immaculate throughout.

Camden Place: Grade A. The overall impression created at this site was a very good one. The road / pathway were spotless. Any minor litter items were at the base of the scaffolding.

Pope's Quay: Grade A. A new feature along Pope's Quay is the recent addition of so many cafes and associated 'outdoor' dining facilities. As well as the individual seating there was some lovely communal wooden seating areas surrounded by planting, all very tasteful. There was a virtual absence of litter along the entire stretch.

Corn Market Street: Grade A. An exceptionally freshly presented city centre environment with very attractive paving and tree planting. When chewing gum and cigarette butts are the only visible litter items it generally means that there are very few other items of note.

Adelaide Street: Grade B. A moderately littered street with a variety of food related items, cigarette butts and vaping devices. Graffiti and derelict sites were also a feature.

Grand Parade: Grade A. The streetscape along Grand Parade was excellent e.g. paving, stone seating, ornamental trees etc. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout and certainly it was one of the cleanest of many IBAL survey visits.

Market Alley: Grade A. The paving along this narrow pedestrianised alley was very fresh and 'greenery' along the left-hand side before one enters The English Market looked well.

Caroline Street: Grade C+. This is a very attractively presented pedestrianised street with brightly painted buildings and greenery lining the outdoor facilities. It was let down by very obvious litter presence, mostly food related, but some alcohol cans / bottles. Broken glass was also a feature.

Filton Street, East: Grade B. This site was a site of two halves. The area close to the river with new road surface / renovated buildings was very good with regards to litter. The other / older end with rough footpath / derelict buildings was somewhat littered with a wide variety of items.