

Cork Northside: 35th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Littered.

There has been little change in the litter situation at Cork Northside for the last number of years, with too few clean sites and a number of litter blackspots. Some of the more heavily littered sites showed little improvement (e.g. Wasteground at Upper Fairhill and Fairfield Meadows and No. 14 Cathedral Street). On first impression, the Recycle Facility at Aldi presented very well – however, further inspection to the rear told a different story. The overall impression along Old Youghal Road was of a littered environment. One of the best top-ranking sites was Gerry O’Sullivan Park – great care has been taken with the presentation and maintenance of this lovely expanse of green space. Other top-ranking sites included Pope’s Hill, North City Link Road and Shandon Street.

Ballyhooley Approach Road: Grade B. There were some stretches of this route which were relatively clean, but the overall impression was a generally littered one, fresh and recent litter on the kerbs / pavements and in the hedges.

Wellington Road: Grade B+. With a little extra effort this road could be a top ranking one. There were simply too many casually discarded mineral cans and sweet papers.

Old Youghal Road: Grade C+. A generally littered impression pervaded along this route – not just casually discarded but dumping of bags at the base of litter bins. Graffiti was very much a feature, and some road signage was riddled with stickers.

Rathmore Park: Grade A. There were no visible litter issues at this tidy and well attended residential area. Some of the road signage was old, in need of replenishing.

Pope’s Hill: Grade A. The bright blue colour scheme of the houses creates a great sense of freshness to the home at this extensive residential development. All areas, including numerous side streets were litter free – well done to all concerned.

North City link Road: Grade A. A busy, fast-move route, and perhaps it could be because of this, it could mean that drivers don’t have an opportunity to litter. Road surface / markings / signage were in good order.

Commons Road: Grade C. The recently cut grass indicates evidence of general maintenance, however, this was superseded by significant accumulations of a wide variety of litter types. As well as casually discarded litter, items had been dumped. Several separate locations were noted e.g. beside the shopping centre, green park beside Circle K and at the end of Fairfield Avenue. Overall, this road presented poorly.

Blackpool Shopping Centre: Grade B. Signage, car parking areas, planting etc. presented well at Blackpool shopping Centre. The pavements were clear throughout but plastic bottles and sweet wrappers, along with shopping receipts were obvious on the grass area on the approach. With a little extra effort, this could easily be a top-ranking site.

Redforge Road: Grade B. Dog fouling and sweet papers were the most obvious litter along this route, followed by lower levels of alcohol cans, plastic bottles, coffee cups, fast-food wrappers and plastic bags. There was a mix of ‘long-lie’ and ‘recent’ litter, particularly in the hedges.

Popham’s Road: Grade B. Graffiti was a feature on the pinkish wall and one of the road signs was so worn away it was almost illegible. There was sporadic food related litter and significant levels of dog fouling. The boarded-up house (broken windows / graffiti / some dumped items) presented poorly and is only going to attract further anti-social behaviour if not monitored closely.

Cushing Place: Grade C. The ‘No Dumping, Hidden Cameras’ signage is clearly not having the desired effect. While some work had taken place to address the dereliction, this site wasn’t just casually littered but subject to dumping. Burnt refuse and graffiti were also a feature. It is well on its way to becoming a litter blackspot.

Roman Street: Grade B+. The freshly painted buildings and wall murals presented very well, and the overall impression was generally quite a good one. Not much effort is required for the top litter grade.

Shandon Street: Grade A. Overall, Shandon Street was deserving of the top litter grade. There was still a cigarette butt / chewing gum presence, but these really only become obvious when there is an absence of other litter items. Some premises were in better shape than others but there was no litter directly associated with the latter.

Gerald Griffin Street: Grade B. Sporadic, fresh litter was present at this large site. There was only one visible litter bin – perhaps the provision of more bins may help. A corner site (at junction with Gerald Griffin Avenue) presented poorly.

Misc derelict site at corner of North Monastery Road & Gerald Griffin Avenue: Grade D+. This large site, essentially a sort of 'wasteground' presented very poorly. It is only going to attract further dumping if it's not addressed. As well as all manner of food related items, there were huge quantities of alcohol cans.

Cathedral Walk: Grade A. This road was mostly characterised by some house-proud residents with some colourful painting and flower boxes. There was one property which presented poorly - see separate survey site below.

No. 14 Cathedral Street: Grade D+. There has been no improvement at this site which was highlighted in previous IBAL surveys – it wasn't just casually littered but subject to dumping.

North Monastery Road: Grade A. Apart from some peeling paper from a torn billboard / poster, North Monastery Road presented very well. The overall impression was a good one with all aspects in good order.

Cathedral Road: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along this extensive site. Any minor items were mostly at the bus stops. Fresh and legible dog fouling signage reminds the public that 'Dog Fouling is Litter – On the Spot Fine €150.00'.

Gurranabraher Road: Grade C+. All manner of food related litter was present throughout this road, along with a significant cigarette butt presence. The overall impression was generally quite a poor one. There didn't appear to be any litter awareness notices / litter bins – perhaps the provision of same may help?

Baker's Road: Grade C. Litter was most pronounced at the shops / public house areas where Baker's Road meets Cathedral Road. As well as the fresh litter on the kerbs / pavements, there was a definite presence in the hedges close by.

Gerry O' Sullivan Park: Grade A. This was one of the best sites surveyed in the area. Not only was it excellent with regards to litter, the overall presentation and maintenance was very good. The seating / flower beds were in very good condition and the grass had recently been cut. A Template for a Grade A site.

Wasteground at Upper Fairhill and Fairfield Meadows: Grade D. This was by far the most heavily littered site surveyed within the area and one which has seen no improvement since previous IBAL surveys. There were some glimmers of hope with the erection of a Planning Permission notice erected on 1st November, 2023.

Kilmore Road: Grade C+. Some parts of this residential area were clear of litter, other parts had accumulations – mostly food related, e.g. mineral cans, plastic bottles and sweet papers, along with some alcohol cans.

Recycle Facility, Aldi: Grade C. On first impressions, all appeared in good order at this small facility. Bin units were freshly presented. The area to the rear told a different story. It wasn't just littered but items had been dumped here.