

**Dublin City Centre: 37<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Littered.**

There were some definite improvements at a number of sites, but it was the dearth of top-ranking sites that saw Dublin City Centre branded 'littered'. Not all improvements resulted in top ranking sites but any shift from heavily littered / litter black spot is to be welcomed. Grafton Street, O'Connell Street and St. Stephen's Green (park) all deserve a special mention – they were excellent, not just in terms of litter but overall presentation and maintenance. Litter blackspots included the car park at the corner of Mary's Lane and St. Michan's Street, a basement on O'Connell Street Upper, vacant ground at Jervis Luas Station and Lamb Alley – there are glimmers of hope at the latter site with the recent announcement of the proposed investment works at the adjoining Iveagh Markets building (Autumn 2023). Any improvements at those or other heavily littered sites could make a big difference to Dublin's overall ranking in the league.

**Grafton Street: Grade A.** A superb site! Grafton Street was surveyed at a busy lunchtime and yet there was a complete absence of litter throughout. The large tree planter boxes looked great. Some of the yellow 'circle city' yellow recycle bins were beginning to look a little tired, but certainly their presence is very welcome.

**St. Stephen's Green: Grade A.** The trees in St. Stephen's Green park looked wonderful on a sunny late autumn afternoon. The park was being enjoyed by many at lunchtime – there was no evidence of any food remnants. The attention to detail was evident by some park attendants washing the large Big Belly bins at the time of the survey.

**Car Park at corner of Mary's Lane and St. Michan's Street: Grade D.** This car park is a freshly presented one in terms of car-park surface / markings / planted areas – however, it was riddled with heavy levels of a wide variety of food related litter and clothing – on the grass perimeter / on the kerbs / in the parking area / at the gate / at ticket machine etc. The result of such heavy littering is that birds have been foraging and made a bad situation even worse. In sharp contrast, renovations and street improvements in the rear on Mary's Lane included lovely tree planting / floral displays.

**Corner of Emmet Road and South Circular Road: Grade C+.** There was a definite heavy litter presence at this site, both casual and some dumping. Food and alcohol related items were present in large amounts, along with other miscellaneous items e.g. discarded household items.

**Little Britain Street and Green Street: Grade C.** A persistent litter presence pervaded throughout this site. It was characterised by discarded cardboard boxes, alcohol cans, plastic bags, an abundance of graffiti and items 'stuffed' into the nice planter boxes. The kerb was lined with litter.

**Laneway on Arran Street East: Grade C+.** There was a mix of recent and 'long-lie' litter along this laneway, indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time. Most items were food related, but there were also items from local businesses. Graffiti was very pronounced throughout.

**Car Park entrance and environs at Loftus Lane: Grade B.** A notable improvement was recorded at this site. This time around the main litter issues (mostly food related) were in the storage area at the car park entrance. Evidence of community work in the form of a volunteer cleaning from the approach on King's Inn Street.

**56 Parnell Square West: Grade C.** While there were heavy litter levels in the basement of this building, it wasn't just confined to the basement. The area in front of the hall door, at street level, was also littered. If not addressed, this site could quickly deteriorate to a Grade D level.

**Vacant site on Middle Abbey Street: Grade B+.** Litter levels were significantly lower than several previous IBAL surveys and clearly some measures have been taken to address this – a large green mesh netting has been installed around the railings – albeit with holes within. The area immediately surrounding this building was spotless.

**Parnell Square West: Grade B.** Those buildings / basements closest to the bus stop seem to be subject to litter, compared to the others, which were spotless. Items were mostly food / cigarette related but also some bus / train tickets.

**Basement on O'Connell Street Upper: Grade D+.** While it would seem that there has been a general clear up since noted in previous IBAL surveys, there has been further build-up of food and alcohol related litter – the latter was particularly obvious, making up the majority of the litter present.

**21-24 Bolton Street: Grade C.** While not quite as heavily littered as previous surveys, there is a long way to go before this would be a top-ranking site. Significant levels of a wide variety of litter prevailed and graffiti was very much a feature throughout.

**Chancery Street Bring Bank: Grade B.** A much-improved site. This facility has been cleverly re-designed, resulting in large signage with only the apertures visible, preventing the 'stuffing' of items between the units. Graffiti was very much a feature on the signage. Loose litter items lay through the railings.

**Former car park on Werburgh Street: Grade C+.** Change is afoot at this site. Some sort of a clean-up has been undertaken, though litter levels were still high. A green fence has been erected, reducing the access to the site and hopefully will reduce the build-up of litter / dumping.

**O'Connell Street: Grade A.** A consistently well presented and maintained site, things were no different this time around. The pavement was spotless. Ornamental trees looked great. It takes a lot of continuous hard work to keep O'Connell Street so clean – well done to all concerned.

**Lamb Alley, Basement: Grade D.** It would seem that litter levels were even worse than previous IBAL survey. While there were heavy levels of a wide variety of food related items, it was really the alcohol cans / bottles which dominated this site. Other similar sites have addressed litter in basements with the installation of metal grill / netting to prevent the build-up of litter. Hopefully the recent news (autumn 2023) of €9million investment at the adjoining Iveagh Markets might have an impact on this site.

**Laneway beside the Vape Shop on Thomas Street: Grade A.** What a transformation! A steel gate has been erected and now the laneway is virtually litter free. It's a simple measure, it doesn't mean that items can't be thrown through the railings but certainly the work has had the desired effect.

**Greek Street: Grade A.** There were no litter issues of note along Greek Street. One of the street bins (directly in front of the Dublin Bike stand) was old / rusty / covered in graffiti and overflowing.

**Beresford Street: Grade A.** A clean and tidy impression was created along this residential road. The overall impression was a very good one.

**41 Parnell Square West: Grade A.** This is another example of a site where previous litter issues have been addressed (e.g. the installation of a net attached to the iron railings) – this has resulted in litter no longer building up in the basement. The plastic net isn't simply draped over the basement but lines the railings on two sides, sort of faux greenery. It's having the desired effect.

**Moore Street: Grade B+.** Moore Street was bustling on the day of the survey. Street bins were in good order and clearly a close eye is kept on any vacant / closed down premises as there was no litter directly associated with them. Not much effort is required for this to be the top litter grade.

**Anne's Street, North: Grade B.** The overall impression created along this residential street was a littered one, mostly food related e.g. mineral cans, sweet paper, plastic bottles and coffee cups, with lower levels of cigarette butts.

**Dominick Street: Grade A.** A hugely transformed site! Major re-development has resulted in a very freshly presented environment with all aspects in very good condition. It was excellent with regards to litter. Once an area becomes clean, the experience of IBAL shows that it is generally easier to keep it clean – hopefully this will be the case.

**Vacant ground at Jervis Luas Station: Grade D+.** Where does responsibility for this site lie? The flimsy netting has become dislodged / ripped and is no longer preventing the build up of litter. Huge quantities had gathered behind the railings.

**Ormond Place: Grade B.** This is another of the many Dublin City sites which have seen a notable improvement. However, there was still a very definite litter presence which could quickly deteriorate to seriously littered status if not monitored carefully.