

Galway City Centre: 19th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

An excellent result for Galway City - one of its best - with fifteen out of the twenty-five sites surveyed getting the top litter grade. Not only was it a great result, but previously heavily littered sites had improved significantly e.g., Galway University Hospital and Eyre Square. With so many top-ranking sites, it's hard to mention them all but a few deserve a special mention e.g. various Canal Walks / Board Walks / Briges, Claude Toft Playground, Cappagh Park & Bearna Wood, Shop Street and Cross Street. One litter blackspot, at Westside Amenity Park, prevented the city from getting a higher ranking.

Galway University Hospital: Grade B+. This is just one example of some of the sites which had improved considerably compared to previous IBAL surveys. Cigarette butts were still present in heavy quantities, although not seemingly as many as before.

Newcastle Place: Grade A. The overall impression with regards to litter at this residential area was a very good one. Individual properties, (bar one dilapidated garage / shed) were well presented.

Newcastle Road: Grade B. (from Seamus Quirke Road in to traffic lights at University Road) A busy route, passing through a mix of residential and entrances to the university campus. The most obvious litter items were cigarette butts, with lower levels of food related items (e.g., mineral cans, fast-food wrappers, coffee cups, plastic bottles), along with plastic wrapping and cigarette cartons. Items were particularly obvious near the covered bus shelter.

Westside Recycle Facility: Grade B+. The recycle units and facility were freshly presented. There were too many items at the base / between the units for the top litter grade. With a little extra care on behalf of the users / those emptying the recycle bins, this could be a top-ranking site.

Car Park at Westside Shopping Centre: Grade A. This was a particularly freshly presented and maintained car park environment. The car park surface / markings / signage were in very good condition and the overall impression was of a clean and well-maintained environment.

Eyre Square: Grade B+. In previous surveys Eyre Square has had a definite litter presence – this time around it just missed the top litter grade. Perhaps there is scope for some 'traffic light box art' at the electricity type boxes close to the bicycle parking? The larger of the boxes was riddled with stickers. The paved area at the top of the square was very freshly presented and maintained.

Shop Street: Grade A. A very good site in terms of presentation and litter. Apart from one run-down doorway, the individual premises were well presented and maintained. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout the entire length of the street.

Cross Street, Upper: Grade A. There were plenty of provisions for outdoor dining / drinking along Cross Street – there was no litter directly associated with them. Minor cigarette butts and chewing gum were not present in sufficient quantities to bring down the litter grade.

Bowling Green Car Park: Grade B. This small car park was moderately littered, mostly food related (e.g., coffee cups, fast-food wrappers and sweet papers,) along with some vapes. Graffiti and weeds were also a feature.

Westside Amenity Park: Grade D. This was by far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Galway City. Dog fouling signage was clear and legible 'Love Your Dog, RESPECT Your City'. Further dog fouling signage was painted on to the ground 'Pick Up or Pay Up'. The equipment and facilities within the park e.g., playground / running track / PE equipment were in good condition. There were heavy levels of a wide variety of food related items, with lower levels of alcohol cans / bottles and cigarette butts. Almost all of the litter was on the hill / around the boulder which was covered with graffiti. Much of the litter was trapped in the high grass.

Carrigeen: Grade A. The entrance to this residential area was characterised by a large stone with the name of the development, along with some low-lying planting. The public grass areas were in good order. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

Ballymoneen Road: Grade B+. (from 50km/h speed limit at Sli Ghael to Blake Roundabout) A well maintained route which was let down by too many food related items e.g., coffee cups, plastic bottles and fast-food wrappers. There was obvious graffiti on one of the green electricity type boxes.

Western Distributor Road: Grade B+. (from Athy Roundabout to Cappagh Rd Junction). All elements were in good order along this busy approach route to the city e.g., grass margins / paving / road etc. It was characterised by minor food related items, but too many for the top litter grade.

Knocknacarra Sports Grounds: Grade A. A large expanse of outdoor facilities including playing pitches, pathways, changing facilities and extensive bicycle parking. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout the wide area surveyed.

Cappagh Park and Bearnna Wood: Grade A. A lovely 'natural' outdoor setting with paths / trails and a playground. Signage was well presented. The whole site was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

R336 Baran Approach Road: Grade A. There were no visible litter issues along this approach route. The overall impression was a positive one with paving on both sides in good order.

The Prom: Grade B+. Dog fouling signage 'Leave Only Paw Prints' along with facility for the disposal of same was attached to a large litter bin. The expansive wooden seating lining The Prom was very freshly presented. All features in the immediate area were in good condition e.g., bicycle parking, visitor information notices, street bins, opportunities to separate waste etc. Not much effort is required for the Prom to get the top litter grade.

Claude Toft Playground: Grade A. A very freshly presented and maintained facility with all aspects in good condition, albeit some graffiti on the large black litter bin. Signage directly outside this facility indicates that it is a 'Smoke Free Zone' – this is something which has been increasingly rolled out over the last number of years, particularly in areas where children gather.

Canal Walk - from bridge at Father Griffin Rd to Bridge at Bridge St: Grade A. Hard hitting dog fouling signage indicates that 'Dog Waste is a threat to the health of our children – degrades our city – Transmits Disease, Leash Curb and Clean Up after Your Dog, It's Required by Law. Life-belt was in good condition. Apart from some graffiti on one wall, the area presented very well.

Boardwalk - from Bridge Street to new pedestrian Bridge - Julia Morrissey Bridge: Grade A. A lovely waterside amenity which was excellent with regards to litter. Features along the route was in good condition e.g., litter bins, signage, stone seating, planted areas, etc., very much in keeping with the natural setting.

Julia Morrissey Bridge: Grade A. A recent addition to Galway City, this attractive feature has already been subjected to graffiti. Some of the planter boxes have had their plants removed / disturbed and have been used as ashtrays.

Galway Sports grounds - Greyhound / Rugby: Grade A. This dual-purpose facility has been well maintained with virtually no litter throughout. It's a credit to the users of the facility and those responsible for the maintenance of same.

Tuam Road Retail Park: Grade B+. There was very little litter in evidence throughout this freshly presented retail park. Car park surface / markings / signage were in good order and the area directly in front of the shops was clear of litter.

Commercial / Industrial Estate, Tuam Road: Grade A. There were minimal litter items throughout this small enterprise / trading centre. Individual premises were in good order.

Westside Shopping Centre: Grade A. This site was very much deserving of the top litter grade. All aspects were in very good condition (e.g. building, paving, planting, benches etc) and area was excellent with regards to litter.