

Limerick City Centre: 38th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Littered.

There were just seven sites out of a total of twenty-five surveyed which got the top litter grade in Limerick City. With just under half of the sites surveyed heavily littered – including no fewer than 5 litter blackspots - it cancels out any improvements in other sites, and there were several which had seen improvements. O’Connell Street and Colbert Train Station were both much improved on previous IBAL and very much deserving of the top litter grade this time around. While not a top-ranking site this time around, 31 Cecil Street had certainly improved compared to previous surveys. The same applies to the Corner of Cecil Street and Catherine Street. Mount Kenneth Place was improved but still somewhat littered. There were monumental levels of dumping at 20 Mallow Street, while the vacant site on William Street was an eye-sore, right in the heart of the city.

Dublin Road: Grade A. (from Annacotty Roundabout to Parkway Roundabout). A clean and welcoming impression was created along this route with very minimal litter issues throughout.

People’s Park: Grade A. This lovely city centre park was looking very well, not just very good with regards to litter but the features within were in very good condition e.g. picnic tables, playground equipment, seating etc. The area appeared to be well served by litter bins. It was a template for a Grade A site.

O’Connell Street: Grade A. Major works have taken place over the last while (Limerick’s O’Connell Street Revitalisation Project) resulting in a lovely streetscape – paving, tree planting, seating, stainless bollards, planter boxes etc. all looked very well. It was great to see the abundance of greenery in the large stone planter areas. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

Dock Road: Grade A. On many previous IBAL litter surveys this route has been somewhat littered – not so this time around. There were no obvious litter issues along this busy, functional route. The ‘Bring Facility’ is a separate survey site area – see below.

Condell Road and Shannonbridge Roundabout: Grade A. Much of this route was tree lined (beautiful autumnal colours) with grass verges / hedges / flower beds which were all very well maintained. Dog Fouling signage reminds the public that it is a public health issue. The roadway / pavements / cycle paths were all very good with regards to litter.

Colbert Train Station: Grade A. A great result for this site which has frequently been littered to various degrees. The large concourse to the front looked very well with attractive paving, seating, planter boxes etc. and there were plenty of litter bins throughout. The overall impression was a very clean and tidy one.

O’Callaghan Strand: Grade A. O’Callaghan Strand was characterised by excellent streetscape and some lovely tree planting. Paving looked very well. There were no litter issues, but graffiti was very much a feature on various different surfaces e.g. signage / wall etc.

William Street: Grade B+. A very attractive city centre street, enhanced by colourful on-street planters and flower arrangements. There was a mix of regular street bins and opportunity to separate / recycle waste. It just missed the top litter grade – a little extra care on behalf of gum users and this could be a top-ranking site.

Courthouse Lane: Grade B+. Not much effort is required for the top litter grade at this site. There was a scattering of some sweet wrappers and alcohol bottles along this narrow laneway – it was mostly in the vicinity of the adjacent Wasteground. Graffiti was also a feature along Courthouse Lane.

31 Cecil Street: Grade B+. A much-improved site with previous issues addressed. The planning permission notice had been defaced somewhat. Hopefully a careful eye is kept and prevents deterioration to previous status.

Corner of Cecil Street and Catherine Street: Grade B+. Similar to the previous site, this area has been cleaned up significantly and awaits the fate of planning permission notice.

Mount Kenneth Place: Grade B. Litter levels were much improved at Mount Kenneth Place. The provision of the 'green' on-street recycle litter bin is a welcome addition to the area. Cigarette butts / chewing gum were still pronounced, with lower levels of sweet wrappers. The pavements, especially near the litter bins, were grubby.

Lanes at High Street: Grade B. A much better impression but still somewhat untidy and dilapidated. Weeds and graffiti were pronounced.

'Bring Facility', Dock Road: Grade C+. The recycle bin units were freshly presented with the signage associated with usage in good condition. On first impressions, the facility presents well. However, the area to the rear of the units tells a different story – there was a significant build-up of heavy levels of a wide variety of different items.

Laneway and Wasteground at Thomandgate and High Street: Grade C+. Previous issues have been addressed i.e. black boarding has been placed at the fences of the Wasteground on the right side of the lane as you leave High Street. In the meantime, another issue has arisen – litter / dumping has developed on the area / Wasteground on the opposite side of lane, the left-hand side.

Cruises Street Car Park Entrance: Grade C+. (from lane at Ellen Street). Litter levels were very pronounced, heavy levels of all manner of food and alcohol related items were visible in a relatively small area. Where does responsibility for this area lie?

Charlotte Quay at Broad Street entrance: Grade C+. A more thorough approach to cleaning regime, particularly at the base of the shrubbery could tackle the food and alcohol related litter at this site. Most obvious items included heavy levels of alcohol cans, plastic bottles, coffee cups and mineral cans.

Miscellaneous site at corner of Hyde Road and entrance to Bus Eireann / Colbert Train Station: Grade C. This is a very small location where large quantities of casually discarded litter have accumulated. There was no notable improvement at this site. Perhaps the installation of a covering / grill over it might help?

Henry Street Car Park entrance and Environs: Grade C. A poorly presented and maintained environment with very obvious heavy litter presence – it would seem that the wheely bins need to be better managed as some were overflowing, further contributing to the problem.

Basement of No. 21 Mallow Street: Grade C. There were significant litter issues at this site – some food related items, but also builders' rubble. Overall impression was a very poor one.

Laneway / Vacant site on William Street: Grade D+. (adjacent to Peter Marks Hair Salon) This is quite the eye-sore, right in the heart of the city. This will only deteriorate further, if not addressed.

Laneway at Parnell Street: Grade D+. (behind Progress Dry Cleaners and other properties). Casually discarded litter levels were very high (all manner of food and alcohol related items) and the fact that the lids were open on the blue / brown wheely bins was further contributing to the problem. The whole area, particularly between the parked cars and the walls, needs a thorough cleaning.

No. 38 Cecil Street: Grade D. This site has been subject to long-term neglect and abuse. It wasn't just casually littered but subject to dumping.

Basement at 20 Mallow Street: Grade D. There were monumental levels of dumping at this site.

Laneway on Ellen Street: Grade D. (off Ellen Street) The very high litter levels of previous IBAL surveys have prevailed. There was an abundance of alcohol related beer cups, along with all manner of food items. Graffiti and a broken discarded wooden pallet also featured.