

Waterford City: 13th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

Waterford City continues to score very well in the IBAL litter league, and this was very much helped along by seventeen out of the twenty-four sites surveyed getting the top litter grade and there no litter blackspots. It's not just the litter situation which sets Waterford City and other high-ranking towns / cities apart but the overall presentation and maintenance of the sites e.g. The People's Park has typically been top ranking and yet there were continued works within to improve it. The Riverwalk along the Quays and Merchant's Quay Car Park have both been recently improved and enhanced. Other top-ranking sites included Lady Lane, Broad Street / Barronstrand and The Medieval Quarter – the latter was an exceptionally well presented and maintained environment.

Plunkett / Waterford Train Station: Grade A. As has been the case for many many previous years, this train station was very much deserving of the top litter grade. No Smoking signage was painted on to the ground in front of the entrance – seems to be having the desired effect as there were no visible cigarette butts. Planting and tie-in with 1916 namesake were nice features.

Bus Eireann Station, The Quays: Grade A. As with recent years, the Bus Eireann Station was excellent with regards to litter. Based on the very high number of litter / cigarette butt notices and the number of litter bins / butt units in a relatively small space, it is clear that litter is taken very seriously. It was spotless throughout. Low-lying planted area to the front of the station looked very well.

Lidl, Tramore Road: Grade A. All was in good order at this retail outlet. Car park surface, markings, signage were freshly presented. Apart from one plastic bottle, there was an absence of litter throughout.

Lady Lane: Grade A. An exceptionally clean city centre street, albeit not a heavily trafficked one. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the closed down / vacant buildings (mostly quite historic rather than retail) as there was no litter directly associated with them. Attractive paving / planter boxes are a welcome feature. It was spotless throughout. Signage relating to area of historic interest e.g., Thomas L Mackesy, MD, Eminent Surgeon.

Riverwalk: Grade A. (from Tower Hotel to main Bridge). Great care has been taken with this riverside walk. The area has been enhanced by tree planting / substantial planter boxes. Life-belts, litter bins, bicycle parking, seating etc. were all in very good condition. The entire length of this extensive walk was very good with regards to litter.

Barronstrand / Broad Street: Grade A. Waterford Winter Wonderland was well underway at time of visit, combined with signage reminding people of 'Buy Local' vouchers – a great initiative, especially at this time of the year. Despite the extra activity, this busy area was clear of all litter. Colourful flower boxes were a lovely feature.

Newtown Approach: Grade A. There were no obvious litter issues along route. Road surface / markings / signage were in very good condition.

Waterford Greenway – Bilberry: Grade A. A fantastically presented amenity with all aspects in very good order e.g., car park, visitor information signage, water fountain, dog fouling facilities etc. This site was spotless.

Approach to Greenway from City Centre: Grade A. Major works have taken place over the last while, resulting in a much-enhanced route. Features included sculpture, attractive riverside amenity and easy access for cyclists. All of this, combined with road resurfacing has resulted in a far fresher road. It had been somewhat littered in previous surveys – not so, this time around.

'Bring Bank' at the Glen: Grade A. A small 'on-street' facility. The recycle bins were in good condition, albeit the signage associated with the use of same was peeling away. There was a virtual absence of litter, just very minor items to the front of the bin units.

People's Park: Grade A. This lovely park amenity has rarely been anything but top ranking over the last number of years and work continues apace with the park. Recent additions include the 'Sports and Leisure Equipment available Free of Charge' – what a fantastic facility. It includes ball rental / table tennis bat and ball rental / boules etc – this is something which could easily be rolled out throughout other parks in the country. The relocation of the PE equipment beside the Skateboard park has resulted in the 'young' were using these facilities. Other works continue throughout the park. It was excellent with regards to litter.

Merchant Quay Car Park: Grade A. A very freshly presented 'on-street' car park with car park surface / markings / signage and associated equipment in very good order. The whole area was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

The Mall: Grade A. As with many previous IBAL surveys, The Mall has scored very well – things were no different this time around. It has been very attractively presented and maintained. Location of historic interest was noted on one of the buildings 'Wolfe Tone Club' – The first Tri Colour was flown here for the first time in March 1848 by Thomas Francis Meagher. All features were in very good condition e.g., seating, planting, 3D models, bike parking, paving etc. The whole area was excellent with regards to litter.

Medieval Quarter: Grade A. Area surveyed was from Reginald's Tower to the Silver Museum, Wake Museum, Medieval Museum, Bishop's Place and Cathedral – it was an exceptionally well presented and maintained environment which is clearly very well respected. It was spotless throughout.

City Quay Shopping Centre: Grade A. The various entrances to this city centre shopping centre have been sensitive to the historical nature of the original site with all sorts of signage indicating same. Signage asks patrons not to smoke directly in front of the centre. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

Ballybricken Green: Grade B+. This small city centre park was attractively laid out with seating, sculpture, band stand, picnic table etc. All was in very good order, but it was impossible to ignore the food waste on the ground, seemingly domestic as it included potato peels and egg shells. Signage on some of the litter bins reminds users not to use them for household waste.

Newrath Approach Road: Grade B+. A main and fast-moving route, there were too many loose food related items for the top litter grade e.g., coffee cups, fast-food wrappers, mineral cans and sweet papers.

Keyser Street: Grade B. A small city centre street which had a light scattering of food related items (particularly at a recessed doorway entrance). It was the discarded black bag of rubbish which really brought down the overall grade.

'Woodpecker' site, Dunmore Road: Grade B. The site remains 'For Sale' and has been littered to varying degrees over a long number of years. As well as causal food related items, builders' rubble had been discarded.

Apple Market Car Park: Grade B. Litter levels were not quite as high as the previous IBAL survey but there was still a definite presence – mostly food related items around the perimeter of this small city centre car park. The overall impression was of a poorly maintained site which could quickly deteriorate to previously seriously littered status.

'Bring Facility' Tesco, Ardkeen: Grade C. It wasn't so much that this site was littered but more dumping had taken place. Large catering cans of tomatoes / coconut milk had been abandoned at the base of the units, clothing was strewn about the clothing units and cardboard box was also a feature. Smaller items were also stuffed between the units.

Miscellaneous Site beside Vee Centre Car Park, Cork Road: Grade C. Waterford City / Council signage indicates 'No Dumping' within this miscellaneous site. The area within wasn't too heavily littered but the entire perimeter surrounding the outside of the site harboured heavy levels of a wide variety of litter.

Cork Road approach: Grade A. There were no litter issues of note, along this busy approach route.

SETU / WIT: Cork Road: Grade A. This third level campus was very much deserving of the top litter grade. The entrances to the various buildings were served by a couple of litter bins. The overall impression was a very positive one throughout.