

Galway Inner City - Ballybane: Littered. 40th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Littered.

With just three top ranking sites and two litter blackspots, Ballybane has dropped towards the bottom of the IBAL league. The levels of dumping at Ballybane Industrial Estate were high, with seemingly very little maintenance of the perimeter / communal areas – where does responsibility for this area lie? Ballybane Village & Environs and Ballybane Library & Environs were let down by the heavy levels of litter in the shrubbery – clearly the cleaning regimes need to include these areas, based on the volumes of ‘long-lie’ litter.

Ballybane Industrial Estate: Grade D. While the individual premises within the industrial estate were fine with regards to litter, it was the condition all along the perimeter which was responsible for the litter grade. As well as casually discarded food items, larger items included old carpet / galvanised steel / timber panels and plastic wrapping – much of it looked ‘long lie’ i.e. that the area lacked a thorough cleaning in quite some time. An area underneath signage for an engineering firm had been used as a dumping ground. Where does responsibility for the maintenance of this industrial estate lie?

Rahylin Glebe: Grade B. Much of this residential area presented well but it was let down by a mixture of food related litter – e.g. sweet papers, mineral cans, fast-food wrappers etc. Evidence of maintenance, with recent grass cutting, with a dedicated ‘wild’ area which was left uncut.

Castlepark Public Amenity: Grade C+. It would seem that a clean-up has taken place since last IBAL visit. The two areas where fires had been lit had all the associated litter removed and the main grass area was reasonably good with regards to litter. However, there was still an old pile of domestic rubbish and hundreds of tiny pieces of shiny metallic paper at one entrance.

Ballybane Village & Environs: Grade D. Apart from chewing gum, the area immediately adjacent to the shops was litter free. But it would seem that this is where the cleaning regime ends. There were vast quantities of all manner of food and alcohol related litter in the shrubbery, much of it ‘long lie’, indicating neglect. Other items included large plastic crates and sheets of plastic. Where does responsibility for the cleaning of the shrubbery lie?

Ballybane Library & Environs: Grade C. Similar to Ballybane Village, the area directly adjacent to the library building was fine – again, it was the shrubbery / grass area around the perimeter wall which harboured the litter.

Ballybane Road: Grade A. Road surface / markings / signage were in good order and the grass areas presented well. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout. Overall, this was a pleasant, well attended road.

Bring Centre, at Shopping Centre, Ballybane Road: Grade C+. On first impressions, all appeared in good order at this bottle / can / clothing facility. The area to the front of the recycle bins presented well. However, items had been ‘stuffed’ to the rear, including cardboard and plastic wrap.

Radharc na Mara Primary School: Grade B+. The previously heavily littered perimeter wall has had a good clean up. This time around, it just missed the top litter grade.

Castlepark Road: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along this road. Road surface / markings / signage were in good order.

SCUUL Enterprise Centre: Grade A. There was some lovely colourful planting at this very well presented and maintained facility. The entrance / car park surface / paving were spotless. Any minor litter items were in the shrubbery. Hopefully it won’t build up like the litter at Ballybane Village / Ballybane Library.