

**Cork Northside: 36<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Littered.**

Cork Northside has been hovering around the same ranking for a number of years, but this time around sees a slight improvement, inching its way up the league. It is encouraging to note improvements at some sites e.g. Kilmore Road and Cathedral Road. There were several top ranking sites: Shandon Street was looking very well (albeit some street bins need cleaning); Blackpool Shopping Centre was freshly presented and maintained; North City Link Road was in very good order; there was a virtual absence of litter at the residential area of Mulberry Heights. Wasteground at Fairfield Meadows wasn't just casually littered but subject to monumental levels of dumping, while Cushing Place suffered from significant levels of dumping. No. 14 Cathedral Walk has been noted in previous IBAL surveys as a very heavily dumped upon site – things were no different this time around.

**Kilmore Road: Grade B+.** The overall impression created along this route was much improved compared to previous IBAL surveys. This time around it was mostly industrial wrapping trapped in fencing and light levels of food related litter in parking spaces outside houses. Hopefully Kilmore Road doesn't slide back to historic levels of litter.

**Cathedral Road: Grade A.** A much-improved road, very much deserving the top litter grade this time around. A brightly painted wall adds a lovely splash of colour to this residential area.

**Wasteground at Fairfield Meadows: Grade D.** This site wasn't just casually littered. Monumental dumping had taken place. As well as vast quantities of discarded food / alcohol related items, there were several suitcases and other miscellaneous items. The planning permission notice relates to November 2023 – for this site. By the erection of such a notice, clearly somebody is claiming 'ownership' of same.

**Corner of Exchange St. & John Roundabout: Grade A.** This historic area, home to Firkin Crane / Butter Museum was attractively presented and maintained with lovely paving throughout. Overall impression was a good one with regards to litter.

**Old Youghal Road: Grade A.** There was a virtual absence of litter along this large site. The overall impression was a good one with regards to litter and general maintenance.

**Cathedral Walk: Grade A.** While the background environmental factors presented poorly e.g. graffiti and cracked pavement, this wasn't a littered site. The bright astro turf pitch added a splash of colour in an otherwise grey environment.

**Silversprings Road: Grade B.** As well as casually discarded litter items (mostly on the kerbs of car parking area of church) a bag of rubbish had been left beside the overflowing stainless steel litter bin by the bus stop.

**Cushing Place: Grade D+.** The red 'No Dumping' signage had been spray painted, with graffiti on the surrounding wall – this very much sets the tone for this site. As well as heavy levels of a wide variety of food related items, dumping had also taken place.

**Corner of Bakers Road & Cathedral Road: Grade C.** Litter levels were still pronounced, with alcohol cans, glass bottles, cigarette butts and chewing gum the most visible items with lower levels of dog fouling, mineral cans, plastic bottles and fast-food wrappers.

**Recycle Facility, Mount Agnes Road: Grade C.** As with former IBAL surveys, all appeared in good order on first impressions. Closer inspection revealed a different story – significant items had been dumped between the rear of the units and the wall behind.

**Glen Avenue: Grade A.** There was a virtual absence of litter in this residential area – just minor amounts of cigarette butts and sweet wrappers.

**Assumption Road: Grade A.** The overall impression along this route, a mix of residential and business, was a good one with regards to litter.

**Glentrasna Park: Grade A.** A lovely park environment with bins, play equipment etc. in good condition. Area was well served by litter bins. There were a few incidents of graffiti beneath the 'ASA Security' signage at the black gate entrance.

**Mulberry Heights: Grade A.** There was a virtual absence of litter throughout this residential development. Individual gardens were well maintained, some of the communal grass areas were more 'natural' in appearance with obvious weeds along the kerbs.

**Car Parking & Environs - corner Popham's Road & Farrenferris Avenue: Grade C.** This site appears to be a sort of 'improvised' parking area - much of the litter appears to be 'long-lie' indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time. Heavy levels of a wide variety of food related items and alcohol bottles were present, along with discarded cardboard boxes and other miscellaneous items. Where does responsibility for this site lie?

**Templemore Avenue: Grade B.** The overall impression along this residential road was somewhat littered – mostly food related items and cigarette butts. Litter was on the kerbs throughout; some road surfaces were uneven.

**No. 14 Cathedral Walk: Grade D.** This site has been highlighted in previous IBAL surveys, with no visible improvement this time around. It was characterised by heavy levels of food and alcohol related litter, large plastic containers, furniture and other miscellaneous items. Where does responsibility for this site lie?

**Commons Road: Grade A.** (from junction with Watercourse Road & Popham's Road) Clearly a careful eye is kept on the various vacant / derelict buildings as there was no litter directly associated with them. The overall impression was a good one with regards to litter.

**North City Link Road: Grade A.** A freshly presented route with road surface, markings, signage in very good order. The overall impression was of a clean environment.

**Blackpool Shopping Centre: Grade A.** There was a virtual absence of litter throughout this expansive car parking / shopping environment. The shrubbery around the perimeter was well attended.

**Gerald Griffin Street: Grade B+.** There were too many mineral cans / sweet wrappers along this street for the top litter grade. Some were 'long-lie', indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time. The derelict / vacant sites were not littered.

**Shandon Street: Grade A.** When chewing gum / cigarette butts are the only visible items, it generally means a lack of other litter. The general impression was a good one with regards to litter and area was enhanced by attractive planting / shrubs. Bins were in good order, albeit some need washing.

**Hillgrove Lane: Grade C.** This residential area was characterised by not just food / alcohol related litter, but other miscellaneous items and significant graffiti on several surfaces.

**Gurranebraher Road: Grade C+.** There was no change to the litter status compared to 2023 IBAL visit. This residential area presents poorly with significant levels of mineral cans and sweet wrappers, with lower levels of alcohol bottles, plastic bottles and glass bottles.

**Wasteground - corner North Monastery Road and St. Mary's Road: Grade C.** While there appear to be some minor improvements, this site still presents poorly. It was characterised by heavy levels of food and alcohol related litter and some dumping.