

Galway City: 21st out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

Galway City has scored very well, with well over half of the survey sites getting the top litter grade and no litter blackspots – well done to all concerned. It was encouraging to see improvements at formerly littered sites e.g. Westside Amenity Park. Shop Street and Dominic Street were both excellent in terms of litter. Other top-ranking sites included ATU - Atlantic Technological University (formerly GMIT) – it would seem that there is a very strong environmental / ecological theme running through the campus, based on the 'Clean Air Campus' signage and the illustrations of native orchids etc. The residential area of Camillaun Park presented well, as did Nolan Park (Sports ground). The issue of cigarette butts at Galway Regional Hospital needs to be addressed – understandably it is a 'Clean Campus Zone' but clearly, it's been widely flouted based on the vast quantities of same. The Recycle Facility on Distributor Road had been subject to dumping, to the rear.

N83 Tuam Approach Road: Grade B+. This route was generally well presented, with some attractive shrub planting which was well maintained. It just missed getting the top litter grade – some discarded clothing, mineral cans, plastic bottles and alcohol bottles took away from an otherwise well-presented environment.

ATU – Atlantic Technological University (formerly GMIT): Grade A. 'Clean Air Campus' signage greets visitors on arrival at this campus. The Centre for Sustainability has colourful and informative 'Orchid' signage indicating that there are approximately 30 species of native orchids in Ireland. The campus grounds were very well cared for / suitably maintained for biodiversity. All was in good order with regards to litter. There was just one rotting wooden bench throughout an extensive survey area.

N6 Old Dublin Road: Grade B. (from Skerrit Roundabout to Oranmore junction) Main litter items along this route were food related e.g. plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers, sweet papers and plastic bags, scattered along the verges.

Garrai Caol Residential: Grade A. An exceptionally freshly presented and maintained residential development with all aspects in excellent order e.g. communal recycle / composing units, bicycle parking, playground, parking and planted areas. There was a complete absence of litter throughout.

R338 Oranmore Approach: Grade C. (from junction with N6 Doughiska Road). There was a persistent litter presence along both sides of the road, the majority of which was food related, but not all. Much of the pronounced litter was in the wasteland / wooded areas. The road was characterised by broken fences in a couple of locations. There were a couple of different styles of 'Keep Galway Clean' / 'No Dumping' signs.

Woodhaven: Grade A. A small and neatly presented residential development, all very well-tended. The individual areas and communal spaces were spotless throughout.

Recycle Facility - Kingfisher Club, Renmore: Grade B+. Not much effort is required for this facility to get the top litter grade. The individual units were freshly presented but the area was let down by items stuffed beneath / behind the units.

Ballyloughane Beach Promenade: Grade A. All aspects of this seaside environment were in excellent condition e.g. signage / seating / paving / railings / large street bins, along with dog fouling signage painted on the ground. Overall, this is a wonderful amenity which was excellent with regards to litter.

Liam Mellows GAA Grounds: Grade A. There was a complete absence of litter throughout this large facility. Overall, a very welcoming site. It was exceptionally freshly presented, with all aspects in very good condition e.g. signage, litter bins, parking area and some colourful planting. Strongly worded dog waste signage highlights that it is a health risk, transmits disease, visually degrades our facility and omits a disgusting odour.

Scoil Caitriona, Renmore: Grade A. The brightly painted prefabs add a splash of colour to a functional building – simple but effective. Signage at the perimeter asks that people don't smoke or vape around the children. There was a complete absence of litter at the visible areas of the school grounds.

Nolan Park - Sports: Grade A. A large expanse of green playing field, with very minimal litter items throughout. Dog signage reminds the public that dogs are not allowed on the playing fields.

Church of Saint Oliver Plunkett: Grade A. Colourful low-lying planting was a lovely feature in the grounds of Church of Saint Oliver Plunkett. The overall impression was of a well-tended facility with an absence of litter throughout.

Port of Galway: Grade C. The main thoroughfare was generally not too bad with regards to litter but in the absence of litter bins, the large planter boxes were being used instead. The area in front of green fencing also presented poorly. All manner of food related items were present.

Galway Port Enterprise Park: Grade A. A functional facility which is clearly carefully monitored in terms of maintenance. Apart from a broken signage and some red & white plastic wrapping, it was excellent with regards to litter.

Eyre Square: Grade B+. Based on the fact that a seagull was spotted loitering, the closed Big Belly style litter bins are probably a very good idea in such a popular outdoor location. Sections of the park were cordoned off but there was no litter directly associated with these areas. The overall impression was of a well presented and maintained park environment, just lightly littered with recently discarded food related items.

Shop Street: Grade A. When chewing gum is noticeable along the street, it generally means that there is little other litter of note. Such was the case along Shop Street. Paving was attractive along some stretches.

Dominick Street, Lower: Grade A. Similar to Shop Street, there were no other litter items, other than chewing gum along Dominick Street Lower. A few incidents of graffiti were noted.

Grannary Suites: Grade A. An attractively presented residential development, much of it with 'olde' style brick. The entrance area was very well maintained with attractive courtyard. All was in very good order, with no litter in sight.

St Nicholas Church: Grade A. A popular tourist attraction, the grounds of this historic site were sensitively maintained. There was a complete absence of litter throughout.

Galway Regional Hospital: Grade C The overall appearance of this hospital campus was a good one, well-tended with very little litter. Despite being a 'smoke free campus' the level of cigarette butts at the main entrance and maternity entrance was incredible. They were discarded amongst stones of a very similar colour; thus, their presence was almost camouflaged.

Westside Recycle Bank: Grade B+. Despite the recycle units being flush against a low wall, a number of plastic bags had been 'stuffed' between the units and the low wall. With a little extra care on behalf of the users, this could be a top-ranking site.

Westside Amenity Park: Grade B+. A much-improved site compared to previous IBAL visit – well done to all concerned. Colourful signage indicates that 'children are at play and that it is a smoke free zone'. All aspects within the park were in very good order e.g. playground, seating, running track etc.

Camillaun Park: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter at this quiet residential development. All properties and communal areas were well cared for.

Gateway Shopping Park - Knocknacarra: Grade B+. Attractive planting at roundabout at entrance created a positive first impression at this shopping centre environment. Much of the area presented well, with further raised planting lining a wall. Overall impression was generally a very good one, just too many small pieces of litter for the top litter grade. With a little extra care and attention, this could easily be achieved.

Recycle Facility, Distributor Road: Grade C. On first impressions, this extensive array of recycle units presented very well, with minimal visible litter. However, further inspection revealed dumping of all sorts of items – right in front of notice indicating CCTV – the area didn't get into this state overnight.