

Waterford City: 12th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

Again our cleanest city, Waterford City has actually improved on its previously strong showings, with only one heavily littered site, beside Vee Car Park. It was particularly encouraging to see notable improvements at a couple of sites e.g. 'Bring Facility' at Tesco Ardkeen (very much deserving of the top litter grade) and the Miscellaneous Woodpecker Site was much improved but clearly requires constant monitoring. Some sites deserve special mention, particularly with regards to the overall presentation and maintenance of same: Viking Triangle / Museum Quarter was exceptionally good; Broad Street / Barronstrand Street was attractively laid out with lovely seating, trees providing coverage for those looking for a place to sit in the shade and very good street furniture; works continue apace at the beautiful People's Park – it was excellent with regards to litter; the residential area of Bowfield / Riverpark was spotless; substantial works have taken place along Grattan Quay / approach from Greenway – the result is a lovely, welcoming route into the city. It was noted that the relic of 'Waterford Crystal' along Cork Road has finally been addressed – construction is underway with SETU signage indicating plans for the future.

R448 Newrath Approach Road: Grade B+. Overall, this was a freshly presented route but there were too many random items of food related litter and car parts for the top litter grade. The colourful flower boxes close to the central median (just opposite the train station) were a welcome feature.

Approach from Greenway / Grattan Quay: Grade A. This route has improved so much since the significant works over the last few years - it now presents a great impression, enhanced by dedicated cycle pathway, planting, seating area and a very fine sculpture. Lovely colourful wildflowers lined the right-hand side. This route is very much deserving of the top litter grade.

Road from Waterford Dog Pound: Grade C+. This narrow, very rural, cul-de-sac borders the car park for the popular Greenway Car Park - food related litter lined the base of the shrubbery and further out along the road there were significant pieces of white Styrofoam.

Bring Centre, Tesco Ardkeen: Grade A. A much-improved site - dumping of previous IBAL surveys was not an issue this time around. There were just small numbers of bottle lids / tops and the bin units / signage associated with the use of the facility were in good condition - albeit some of the bottle units were full / almost overflowing.

Woodpecker Site, Dunmore Road: Grade B+. This derelict site has been heavily littered in previous surveys - clearly there has been some cleaning. Such sites are likely to be magnets for litter if not monitored closely. The site is still sporting 'For Sale' signage. Loose food related litter items and the base of the street cone were present.

Bowfield / Riverpark: Grade A. An extensive residential development with a series of interconnecting roads, with mature planting throughout. All aspects were in very good order and excellent with regards to litter.

Deposit Return Scheme, Aldi, Cork Road: Grade A. A stand-alone facility, in the car park, this was spotless. Excellently maintained.

City Square Shopping Centre: Grade A. City Square Shopping Centre can be accessed via three separate entrances - each was spotless. There was 'No Smoking' signage directly outside one of the entrances. The interior of the shopping centre was not just spotless, it was gleaming. Sweeping was taking place at time of IBAL survey. There was a signage outside one of the entrances indicating the historic nature of this original site.

People's Park: Grade A. An absolute gem of a site. A super facility which is continuously being improved upon - most recently, the provision of permanent Table Tennis Table and the lovely soft planting by the re-located PE equipment. All aspects of the park were in excellent order e.g. play equipment, signage, seating, picnic tables, lifebelts etc. Excellent with regards to litter.

Waterford Court House – Grounds: Grade B+. Upon accessing the grounds via the pedestrian bridge, from the People's Park, the first impressions were excellent - a large expanse of green space which looked very well. It was only a pity that the grass cutting took place without picking up the litter in advance - resulting in 'chopped up' litter. There were minor items at the base of the shrubbery, which runs parallel to the river.

Bring Centre, Bolton St. Car Park: Grade A. A small 'Bring Facility' which was spotless - not a hint of a lid / top of bottle on the ground. It is rare to see such a facility looking so well. Well done to all concerned.

Approach from Waterford Hospital / Dunmore Road: Grade A. The overall impression along this route was a good one, with a virtual absence of litter throughout. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the run down / derelict buildings closer to the city as there was no litter directly associated with them.

The Mall: Grade A. Great attention has been given to this short stretch of road. The area in front of 'House of Waterford' was exceptionally freshly presented. The lovely 3D model looked very well. Signage at the planting directly in front of Theatre Royal indicates that the Sedum Bed needs very little water and provides habitat and food for insects throughout the year. Seating, bicycle parking, visitor information, paving, litter bins etc. were in very good condition.

Viking Triangle: Grade A. An extraordinarily well presented and maintained area, being enjoyed by several walking groups at time of IBAL survey. Excellent visitor information / historical signage throughout. Attractive planting looked very well. A lovely idea is the facility to 'rent' Chess pieces to play on the public chess tables.

Broad Street / Barronstrand Street: Grade A. Despite plenty of outdoor eating / drinking on a warm and sunny afternoon this attractively laid out shopping thoroughfare was very much deserving of the top litter grade. Tree planting provides some welcome cover for those seeking shade. Paving, seating, street signage, litter bins and colourful flower and planter boxes were all in excellent order. Live busking certainly contributes to the overall atmosphere.

Apple Market Car Park: Grade B+. While there weren't the same levels of litter as IBAL visit in 2023, there were still some food related items (plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers and plastic bottles) and cigarette butts. Area at the end of the car park on the right-hand side had a couple of chairs - likely to attract more 'discarding' of items. Perimeter was heavily weeded. Overall presentation was quite poor.

Michael Street: Grade A. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the various closed down / 'For Sale' premises along this somewhat bohemian shopping street. A site along Michael Street highlighted in previous IBAL surveys has been addressed by substantial planter boxes placed in front - looks very well. Michael Street was very good with regards to litter.

Riverwalk - The Quays: Grade A. From Bridge to Tower Hotel (excluding the boarded-up area). Paving, planting, seating etc. from the Bridge to the boarded-up area is a lovely riverside environment. Millennium Plaza at the far end had some lovely features, including colourful planting and seating. The whole stretch of pathway beside the river was excellent with regards to litter.

Bus Eireann Bus Station - The Quays: Grade A. Plenty of awaiting passengers who all appear to be heeding the numerous litter awareness notices, including plenty of cigarette butt notices. Planted area to the front of the station looked very well.

Industrial Storage Area – Pedestrian access to car park from Great George's Street Grade C+. Area visible through the railings looked heavily littered, with a variety of food related items, clothing and other miscellaneous items. Weeds were significant. Such a site is likely to attract / encourage further littering / dumping. Needs attention.

Waterford Retail Park: Grade B+. This retail park is served by a vast expanse of car parking, all of which was in excellent order. The area in front of the stores was spotless. What brought down the litter grade was litter on the retail park side of the corner site at the end of the line of shops - the adjoining site / field presented poorly.

Waterford Industrial Estate: Grade A. An industrial estate with a cycle path! Works continue apace at this extensive site, with several separate access points. The overall impression was a virtual absence of litter throughout. There was lovely planting surrounding Bausch & Lomb.

SETU - Cork Road Campus: Grade A. As with so many recent IBAL surveys, this site was very much deserving of the top litter grade. The various entrances were well served by plenty of litter bins. Signage, seating, litter bins etc. were in good order. Based on signage further along Cork Road, there is development underway at the former Waterford Crystal site – this sounds very encouraging.

Car Park - Hyper Centre: Grade A. A well-presented and maintained car park environment - cleaning / sweeping was taking place at time of IBAL survey. The whole area was excellent with regards to litter. A nice feature were the 'olde' style street lamps at the 'Disabled Parking Bays'.

Misc Site beside Vee Car Park: Grade C+. This site still presents poorly, despite slightly lower litter levels than previous IBAL surveys. Based on the Waterford City & County Council 'No Dumping' signage, they are aware of it. As well as food related items, there were electrics and pieces of wood. Planning Permission notice relates to 2022. Where does responsibility for this site lie?