

An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Survey 2, 2024

Ballybane: Littered. 35th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed.

The presence of five top-ranking sites has nudged Ballybane up the litter league – however, there were still two litter blackspots, stubbornly so – Ballybane Village and Ballybane Industrial Estate. The latter has been a little blackspot on numerous previous IBAL surveys – where does responsibility for the cleaning of communal areas lie? Ballybane Road presented well, and Ballybane Road Shopping Centre and Community Organic Garden were all deserving of the top litter grade.

Ballybane Industrial Estate: Grade D. Individual units within the industrial estate were generally in good order. While the litter volumes may be somewhat less than in previous IBAL surveys, there was still significant dumping around the perimeter fencing – mostly packing materials / plastic wrapping / wooden pallets associated with businesses operating within the industrial estate. Other items included discarded plastic fencing / mattress / cardboard and vast quantities of loose, smaller, items on the pavement. Where does responsibility for the cleaning of ‘communal’ areas lie?

Castlepark: Grade B. A large expanse of green space with lush grass / planting throughout. Casually dropped food related items (coffee cups, plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers, sweet papers), mostly around the entrances and along the path took away from the overall appearance of this site.

Ballybane Village: Grade D. There was litter everywhere, around the shops and in particular, at the base of the shrubbery. All manner of food related items, cigarette butts, and face masks were present. What sort of cleaning regime is in place here? The residential development is now occupied and clear of litter.

Ballybane Road – Approach: Grade A. (from lights at Monivea Road to Skerrit Roundabout). A fresh and welcoming approach to Ballybane with all elements in excellent condition and being well tended. Road signage / bus stop area were in good order.

Beal Srutha: Grade B+. The communal grass area / seating in this residential area presented well, with some of the planted areas looking somewhat neglected. Scattered litter items were food related.

John Paul, Services: Grade A. All appeared in very good order at this facility. Area was enhanced by colourful planting and seating. It was excellent with regards to litter.

Castlepark Road: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along this busy approach route. It was characterised by well-tended grass areas / paving, largely in good order, with some stretches in need of attention. There was a lovely splash of colourful wildflower planting on a large stretch of grass. A promotional flyer related to a date in July – survey was conducted in the autumn.

Ballybane Community Organic Garden: Grade A. There were no visible litter issues at this community space – bright painting beside the signage was a lovely feature.

Recycle Facility- Ballybane Shopping Centre: Grade B+. A well presented facility with clean and fresh containers and signage associated with the use of same in good order. With a little extra effort on behalf of the users, this could be a top ranking site. Plastic bags had been ‘stuffed’ between the units and small items were on the ground.

Ballybane Shopping Centre: Grade A. An exceptionally clean and freshly presented shopping centre environment – well done to all concerned.