

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

Ballymun: Moderately Littered. 34th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed.

While there was just one top-ranking site in Ballymun, the overall ranking was improved due to the fact that there were no litter blackspots – two sites which were regularly blackspots had been cleaned up, somewhat – the bring facility on Shangan Road and entrances to the former Ballymun Towers. Improvements were also noted at the residential area of Longdale Terrace.

R108 Approach from M50: Grade B+. It would seem that litter levels were slightly lower than many previous IBAL Surveys – perhaps the provision of newer bins might have helped. Closer to the town, the central median was lined with colourful Tidy Towns planter boxes.

Ballymun Sports & Fitness: Grade C+. The part of the building which fronts onto Ballymun Road was excellent with regards to litter and there were minimal items at the main pedestrian entrance to the side - just some random loose litter and minor items trapped in the grill. It was a corner site, beneath signage for Ballymun Sports and Fitness Underground Car Park which brought down the litter grade – it wasn't just causal litter behind the metal railings but miscellaneous items e.g. discarded street cone, base of street cone, pieces of wood etc. This site needs attention before it attracts further items.

Bring Facility, Shangan Road: Grade B. While the heavy levels of dumping of previous IBAL visits were not present, the small on-street facility presents poorly with graffiti, copious quantities of bottle tops lodged in the grass to the rear of the units, a discarded tin of paint (not recyclable at this facility) and small clothing items at the base of the front of the units.

Coultry Park: Grade B+. A large expanse of park space, right in the heart of Ballymun, but tucked away. PE equipment and playground were in good order – the latter was in a lovely wooden style. The site was overwhelmingly very good with regards to litter. However, it was impossible to ignore an isolated area, the opposite end of playground, where litter had lodged to the side of a stone building, the latter which was covered in graffiti. There were remnants of a fire on the ground in the immediate vicinity of same.

Entrances to former Ballymun Towers: Grade C. The large planter boxes at each of the entrances are a lovely feature. This site was somewhat improved with lower levels of litter / dumping compared to previous IBAL surveys. One wonders how long it will remain so. As well as dumped household items, (e.g. clothes horse / large cardboard box and associated packaging / black sacks etc.) there were vast quantities of alcohol bottles behind the railings – items which can so easily be recycled.

Lidl: Grade B+. The large expanse of car park was freshly presented but it was the smattering of litter around the store entrance / in the raised flower beds which prevented the top litter grade. Items were primarily food related.

Longdale Terrace: Grade B. This residential area had been heavily littered / dumped upon in previous IBAL surveys – not so, this time around. However, the base of the numerous trees have attracted a variety of miscellaneous items – if not addressed, it's likely that there will be a further build up.

Main Street, Ballymun Road: Grade B+. The library side of this long stretch of road was excellent with regards to litter. The far side, particularly towards the junction with Glasnevin Avenue, was the side which harboured light litter levels. The stretch of road towards the Axis Centre was excellent and there were plenty of community related notices, many with an environmental theme. There were plenty of dog fouling signs throughout (albeit, positioned very high on lampposts)

Ballymun Road Approach: Grade A. A very well presented and maintained route, with no visible litter throughout. Colourful 'Traffic Light Box Art' close to the Credit Union was a lovely feature.

Santry Approach Road: Grade B. Litter was more obvious the closer one got to the big junction – particularly on the right hand side, just past the bus stop – much if it was seemingly 'long-lie', lodged among the leaf fall, indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time.