

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

Blanchardstown: Cleaner than European Norms. 6th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed.

The three approach routes surveyed got the top litter grade and this high standard was sustained for almost all of the remaining sites surveyed. Other examples included the residential area of Blasket Square, Waterville Park (this public park was in great condition) and the Main Street in Blanchardstown – the latter was characterised by some lovely features e.g. colourful flower beds, 'olde' style street lamps, large planter boxes and tree planting. By far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Blanchardstown was the pedestrian pathway between the residential areas of Tory Square and Garnish Square – it would seem it doesn't get the same attention as other sites surveyed, due to the fact some of the litter was 'long-lie' i.e. indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time.

Blanchardstown Shopping Centre: Grade A (TK Maxx / Mr Price / Waltons etc). Paving, silver bollards, litter bins, etc. were freshly presented and the overall impression at this extensive site was a very good one with regards to presentation and maintenance. There was minimal litter throughout this site.

Recycle Centre / Bring Facility at SuperValu: Grade A. With the Recycle bins flush against the back wall, there was little room for the 'stuffing' of items to the rear, as can so easily happen with such facilities. All was in good order at this small facility. Overall, there was better impression than previous visit.

Deposit Return Scheme, SuperValu: Grade A. There was no litter directly associated with this 'standalone' facility, just outside the store. SuperValu has seized the opportunity to promote the SuperValu Gift Card via the Deposit Return Scheme by encouraging patrons to add the value of the Deposit Return Scheme voucher to the Gift Card.

Main Street, Blanchardstown: Grade B+. There were some very attractive features along the Main Street e.g. colourful flower beds, 'olde' style street lamps, railings, bollards, large planter boxes, tree planting etc. Much of the area looked very well but it was let down by significant cigarette butt presence (particularly outside the pubs) and lower levels of sweet wrappers. Tidy Towns sponsored signage at the large Big Belly style bin encourages the locals to dispose of butts and litter in the bins provided.

Blasket Square: Grade A. All aspects of this residential development were in very good order. It was excellent with regards to litter and very much deserving of the top litter grade.

Misc site between Tory Square and Garnish Square: Grade C+. This pedestrian pathway linking two residential areas, is in stark contrast to the surrounding areas. The overall impression was a littered one with a mix of both recent and 'long-lie' litter, the latter indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time. Main items were food related e.g. sweet wrappers, plastic bottles and mineral cans.

Waterville Road: Grade A. A freshly presented, tree-lined, approach route into Blanchardstown, creating a positive first impression of the area. It was spotless throughout. This high standard was maintained for the majority of the remaining sites surveyed.

Waterville Park: Grade A. A lovely park environment with large pond / paving / grass area etc. All aspects of the park were in very good order. Clearly it is a very well maintained and respected space – a worthy top-ranking site.

Clonsilla Road / Snugborough Rd Extension: Grade A. Road surface / markings / signage were in good order and clean pavements contributed to the overall fresh impression created along this route. The well attended hedges / trees / grass verges were in very good order. The bus stops throughout the stretch surveyed were litter free.

N3 Blanchardstown By Pass: Grade A. There were no visible litter issues along this busy and fast-moving route. Freshly cut grass verges on both sides of the road contributed to the positive impression created here.