

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

Cork Northside. Littered. 38th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed.

With three litter blackspots and just three top-ranking sites out of a total of 25 sites surveyed, Cork Northside has seen its cleanliness rating slip somewhat. There were seven sites which just missed the top litter grade – not much effort is required to attain this. Examples included Cathedral Road, Shandon Street, Templeacre Avenue and Gerald Griffin Street. Little improvement was noted at Hillgrove Lane; Corner of North Monastery Road & St. Mary's Road and a vacant site at Cushing Place. No 14 Cathedral Walk, previously a litter blackspot, is now a Grade A site – success!

Bring Centre, Lidl: Grade C. (Mount Agnes Road). On first impressions, all appeared in good order. The bin units / signage associated with the use of same were freshly presented. The area to the rear told a completely different story. Dumping had taken place. The bin units were somewhat 'removed' from the wall to the rear – perhaps placing them 'flush' against the wall might help?

Car Park & Wasteground at Bride Valley Park: Grade D+. This was one of the most heavily littered sites surveyed in Cork Northside. While there were heavy levels of casually discarded litter in the car park, it was the dumping in the wasteground which really brought down the litter grade – the overall impression was very poor and only likely to deteriorate if not addressed.

Cathedral Road: Grade B+. Not much effort is required for this site to get the top litter grade. Loose litter along the pavement / at the bus stops took away from an otherwise well-presented road.

Lidl - Mount Agnes Road: Grade B. The overall impression at this site was somewhat littered, mostly food related items, plastic bags and shop receipts. Items were on the kerbs in the car park and along the shop loading bay.

The Planet Entertainment Centre: Grade A. A freshly presented and maintained environment with no litter issues. Planted areas were a lovely feature.

No. 39 & 40 Cathedral Walk: Grade C. There would appear to be a new litter problem developing at these two boarded up / derelict properties. Level of dumping was such that if not addressed, it will quickly become a litter blackspot. Needs attention.

Shandon Street: Grade B+. A more thorough approach to cleaning could easily push this site up to Grade A status – the litter items were at traffic light service boxes. This is an easy fix. Chewing gum was also pronounced on the footpath.

Corner of North Monastery Road & St. Mary's Road: Grade D+. This site has been highlighted in previous IBAL litter surveys with little notable improvement this time around. Quite simply, the area has been significantly dumped upon – where does responsibility for this site lie?

Gerald Griffin Street: Grade B+. A more thorough approach to cleaning the area around the electricity type box could lift this street up to Grade A status. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the derelict building as there was no litter directly associated with it.

Hillgrove Lane: Grade C+. This was another site which has seen little improvement since highlighted in previous IBAL surveys. The overall impression was a very poor one with bags of rubbish strewn at the base of the wheely bins, heavy levels of general loose litter and significant graffiti on several surfaces.

Corner of John Redmond Street & Exchange Street: Grade B+. Litter levels were low (mostly sweet papers and fast-food wrappers) but there was an untidy air with grimy pavements.

Kilmore Road: Grade C. As well as the casually discarded litter on the kerbs / at bus stops, there were instances of dumping at various grasslands / wastelands, with evidence of old burnt rubbish. Part of pavement was completely cracked / broken off – a potential trip hazard.

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Templeacre Avenue: Grade B+. Litter items along this route were alcohol bottles and sweet wrappers. This site could be Grade A with a little more care.

Old Youghal Road: Grade B+. The overall impression on this long stretch of road was generally quite good. However, there were too many food related litter items at the car parking area in front of Donatella's Family Pizza and at the bus stop beside the entrance to the residential area of Knight's Court.

Wasteground at Fairfield Meadows: Grade D. This was the most heavily littered site surveyed in Cork Northside, with no improvement on previous surveys. It wasn't just littered but subject to monumental levels of dumping, including builders' rubble. The planning permission notice was dated November 2023, i.e. a year ago.

Environs 'The Glen' shop: Grade C. There were significant amounts of litter (fast-food wrappers / sweet papers) throughout this site. There were no litter bins / litter awareness notices. The street signage for Thomas Kent Park was illegible from a distance.

Car Parking, at Farenferris Road: Grade B. The main litter items were plastic bags and sweet wrappers, with lower levels of mineral cans and plastic bottles. There were most obvious at the EV station and at the 'Uisce Eireann' working area.

Cushing Place Vacant site: Grade C. Significant casually discarded litter lay beneath the following signage '*Government of Ireland, Housing for All, Building Homes, Supporting Communities*'. The area also suffered from dumping. Planning Permission notice was dated August 2020 – i.e. over four years ago. This site has been highlighted in previous IBAL surveys.

North City Link Road: Grade A. This route creates a positive impression with no obvious litter presence.

Popham's Road: Grade C. Heavy levels of food related litter were visible along this road, primarily on the grass and at the car parking areas. Most obvious items were plastic bags, fast-food wrappers, cardboard, and sweet papers with lower levels of cigarette butts and plastic bottles.

Gurranbraher Road: Grade B. Litter was obvious in the immediate vicinity of the shops / car parking associated with same. The surrounding streets were clean.

Parklands Drive: Grade B. The overall impression along this road was of a littered environment – mostly 'fresh' items on the kerbs close to Mallow Road and residential area of Fairhill.

Commons Road: Grade B+. One stretch of wall was brightly painted / freshly presented by local business, '*Manufacturing in Cork since 1885*'. Commons Road just missed the top litter grade – litter on the kerbs and in the hedges at the pavement took away from an otherwise good site.

Environs at shops on corner of Cathedral Road & Bakers Road: Grade C. A more thorough approach to the cleaning regime is required to tackle the significant litter in the hedges opposite the shops. Litter wasn't limited to the hedges – the parking areas for the shops / pub were also littered.

No 14 Cathedral Walk: Grade A. Success! This site had been highlighted in previous IBAL surveys – this time around there a gate had been erected – no litter was visible. A simple solution which appears to be having the desired effect, so far anyway.