

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

Dublin City Centre: Littered. 39<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed.

Unfortunately, there was no sign of improvement in the streets of our Capital last year. As with many previous surveys, O'Connell Street, Grafton Street and the park at St. Stephen's Green were very in very good order – this takes a great deal of effort and attention on a continuous basis. Other 'basement' type sites have fared poorly e.g. there has been no change at 'Lamb Alley', which was still a litter blackspot. Basements on North Frederick Street, Nelson Street, Eccles Street and Stephen Street Upper harboured large amounts of litter. Solutions have been found at other similarly heavily littered sites – e.g. the installation of 'iron grills'. The river banks and water's edge at Emmet Road & Environs was a litter blackspot.

It is heartening to see positive action has been taken at sites cited in previous surveys as heavily littered. Many of these increased their litter grades to moderately littered status: e.g. Basement on O'Connell Street, Vacant site on Middle Abbey Street; Green Street and Great Britain Street; 21-23 Bolton Street; Vacant site at Jervis Street Luas creates a better impression than previous surveys; the litter issue at Laneway on Thomas Street (adjacent to Vape Shop) has been addressed by the installation of an iron gate and this time around it was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

**No 30 North Frederick Street: Grade D.** A once beautiful Georgian building has been allowed to fall into a terrible state of disrepair. Front door has been boarded up and is covered in graffiti. A sort of temporary mesh fencing has been placed at the bottom of the three steps, along with a chain and weeds several feet high are emanating from the basement – the latter which has been used as a dumping ground. Where does responsibility for this site lie?

**Basement on O'Connell Street: Grade B.** After many years of being a heavily littered site, things were significantly improved this time around. Hopefully this upwards trend can continue and that the site doesn't deteriorate to previously heavily littered status. Fresh / recent litter was evident – a wire / mesh covering might address this as has been successfully implemented in other sites around the county.

**Vacant site on Middle Abbey Street: Grade B+.** Another good news story in terms of a formerly heavily littered site. While the façade presents poorly (perhaps needing serious attention) the levels of litter have been significantly reduced by the simple erection of green mesh over the basement. Only litter items were some old newspapers on the steps. Fresh real estate signage indicates that the entire building is available for lease, various use subject to PP.

**North Lotts: Grade C.** This cobbled stone stretch very much feels like a 'back-alley', the rear of various premises and associated bins. There was a constant stream of litter lining the cobblestones, the majority of it food related, along with cigarette butts, and alcohol cans / bottles.

**O'Connell Street: Grade A.** The fact that O'Connell Street achieves such a consistently high grade is testament to the great work of many – such a long and wide stretch of road requires round the clock attention – well done to all concerned. Not only was O'Connell Street very much deserving of the top litter grade, but the overall impression was a particularly clean one with plenty of litter bins throughout.

**Site on Werburgh Street: Grade C.** While the fencing appears new, this doesn't disguise the vast quantities of litter at this site. Heavy levels of a wide variety of food and alcohol related items, along with cigarette butts and vapes were present. This stretch of road is very close to top tourist destinations e.g. Dublin Castle / Christchurch Cathedral and is visible to all tourists passing by.

**Basement on Lamb Alley: Grade D.** Vast quantities of alcohol cans / bottles lined the basement of this historic red-brick building. Other items included sleeping bags / pop-up tents and miscellaneous items. Huge weed growth has begun to take over. The pavement was spotless. Despite the introduction of the Deposit Return Scheme earlier in 2024 there has been no obvious reduction in alcohol cans.

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**Temple Bar: Grade A.** There was a virtual absence of litter throughout this heavily used area. Small pieces of broken glass were trapped in the cobblestones but not in large quantities. As noted in several previous IBAL surveys, many of the street signs were old / illegible.

**Car Park at corner of St. Michan's Street and Mary's Lane: Grade C.** It would seem that there was little change / overall improvement, despite evidence of some clean-up. Heavy levels of a wide variety of litter were present, particularly to the rear, at the wall between the car park and the adjacent housing / apartments. The built environment was freshly presented e.g car park surface / perimeter planting / bicycle parking / fencing etc. but litter was prevalent throughout.

**Green Street and Great Britain Street: Grade B.** It is very encouraging to see another formerly heavily littered site showing some improvement. The new road surface certainly contributes to a fresher impression. While it was definitely better than before, it would seem that a careful eye is required to prevent deterioration to previous status as items were already beginning to build-up. Graffiti was very pronounced on some surfaces.

**Capel Street: Grade B+.** Fairly recently pedestrianised, there was a mix of 'outdoor' dining and planting along Capel Street. The overall impression with regards to litter was generally quite good but there were very obvious cigarette butts in the planter boxes and litter trapped beneath benches / seating area. Not much effort is required to bring this up to Grade A standard.

**Vacant site on Brunswick Street: Grade C.** This site wasn't just casually littered but subject to dumping of household items – where does responsibility for it lie?

**Laneway at Arran Street East: Grade B+.** Another significant improvement on previous surveys – the new paint on the wall and recently re-laid road surfaces certainly spruces up the whole appearance. Fingers crossed that this can be sustained.

**Basement of No. 8 North Frederick Street: Grade C.** Door signage 'Harry Clarke House'. The stair well and basement of this beautiful Georgian building were heavily littered with loose items, mostly food and alcohol related. Cigarette butts also featured. Doorway and railings were in a poor state of repair.

**Parnell House, Parnell Square, East: Grade C.** There were significant accumulations of food / alcohol / cigarette related items at this site, not far from the popular Garden of Remembrance. It will only deteriorate further if not addressed.

**No 22 Frederick Street North: Grade C.** All manner of food / alcohol related items had gathered in the basement and there was a green sack of rubbish on the steps, the contents of which were strewn about due to foraging by animals. It would seem that the alcohol drinkers are unaware of the 'Deposit Return Scheme' as there were heavy levels of alcohol cans.

**Vacant site at Jervis Street Luas: Grade A.** What a turnaround! This site had been highlighted in several previous IBAL surveys – this time around a wooden boarding has been erected and addressed the build-up of litter. A simple, if temporary solution to such a site.

**River Banks and Water's Edge at Emmet Road & Environs: Grade D.** Vast quantities of loose food and alcohol related litter had been discarded in and around this site, including at the bridge on South Circular Road, behind old railings and under the iron grills on the pavement. The majority of the litter was alcohol related, much of it 'long-lie', indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time.

**Laneway on Thomas Street - adjacent to Vape Shop: Grade A.** The provision of an iron gate appears to have addressed the previous litter issue at this site – well done to all concerned.

**Nelson Street – Basements / steps to entrances: Grade D+.** The basements of various premises were heavily littered / dumped upon, and a few black sacks of rubbish had been left on a street level steps. The overall impression was a very poor one. Perhaps the installation of iron grills over the basements (as has happened at similar sites) might be a solution?

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**21-23 Bolton Street: Grade B.** There was evidence of a major clean up at this site and overall impression was much improved compared to previous IBAL surveys. Though, the boarding around the site presents poorly / old.

**Phoenix Park - Chesterfield Avenue: Grade A.** This was an excellent site in terms of overall presentation and maintenance. All aspects were in exceptionally good condition e.g. road surface / markings / planting etc. It was spotless throughout.

**Basements of Nos 45 / 46 / 47 Eccles Street: Grade C.** This series of basements harboured large amounts of 'loose' litter with heavy levels of PPE items (particularly disposable blue gloves). There was a mix of 'long-lie' and recent items. Significant cigarette butt accumulations gathered on the footpath.

**Ormond Place / app. From Arran St. East: Grade C+.** The litter issue at this site was compounded by seagulls tearing open the refuse bags, resulting in food related items strewn about. As well as the loose litter items, pieces of furniture had been abandoned.

**Basement on Stephen Street Upper - at Zeitrim House: Grade C.** As well as heavy levels of food and alcohol related litter discarded in the basement, items included street cone, clothing and other miscellaneous items. This site presents poorly.

**St. Stephen's Green – Park: Grade A.** An exceptionally clean park environment, getting plenty of use on a mild December lunchtime. All aspects of the park were in very good order, and it was excellent with regards to litter - just one plastic bottle throughout the whole park area. An area close to the pond was set aside as 'Managed for Wildlife'.

**Grafton Street: Grade A.** What was so striking along Grafton Street was how extraordinarily clean the entire street was - the pedestrian paving was of excellent quality and looked very well. The street was very well served by litter bins, both regular bins and green 'recycle bins' - the yellow 'circle city' bins have been replaced. Some of the street bins have been adapted to accommodate a 'shelf' for plastic bottles / cans - to prevent foraging of litter bins for same.

**Nassau Street: Grade A.** Planter boxes lined some of the cycle path - adding a splash of colour and welcome greenery on this heavily trafficked route. Small stickers had been stuck onto a series of lamp-posts / street posts throughout and graffiti was a feature. Some of the street bins had a 'shelf' for plastic bottles / cans. Nassau Street was very good with regards to litter and very much deserving of the top litter grade.

**Erne Terrace – (Front and Rear): Grade A.** There was a virtual absence of litter along these two short residential streets. Graffiti was pronounced on many surfaces, including some of the '*No Dumping*' Signage.