

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

**Galway City: Cleaner than European Norms. 11<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed.**

**An exceptionally good result for Galway City with 19 of the 25 sites surveyed getting the top litter grade - there were no litter blackspots. This great result puts Galway City the top ranking city in the IBAL Anti-Litter league. Top-ranking sites include a variety of residential areas (Lurgan Park, Béal Taoide); Lakeshore Drive Playground (all aspects were in very good order); University of Galway campus (an extensive environment which was freshly presented and maintained); Library at Westside had some colourful and welcoming features and was very good with regards to litter; there was a complete absence of litter at Corrib Rangers Boys Academy.**

**Lurgan Park: Grade A.** A freshly presented and well maintained residential area with all aspects in good order. It was excellent with regards to litter.

**Pinewood Grove: Grade A.** The signage of the residential development was in excellent condition, set upon grass, with extensive planting close-by. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

**Lakeshore Drive Playground: Grade A.** Playground equipment was in very good condition. Signage at the entrance to the playground indicates, amongst other things, that smoking is not permitted. Humorous signage painted on the ground (albeit very faded) reminds users about removal of dog fouling. This site was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

**Old Dublin Road - R338: Grade A.** (Skerrit Roundabout to junction with R921). There was a virtual absence of litter along this busy approach route, creating a positive first impression of the city. This high ranking was sustained for many of the remaining sites surveyed.

**Béal Taoide: Grade A.** All elements of this seemingly very new residential development were in very good order. There was a complete absence of litter throughout. Planted areas appear to be left to 'rewild'.

**N67 Approach: Grade B+.** (from Carrowmoneash Roundabout in to lights at R921) A light scattering of plastic bags, plastic bottles and sweet papers took away from the overall appearance along this busy route.

**R921: Grade A.** (from N67 junction in to junction with R338) All appeared in good order along this busy approach route – no obvious litter issues.

**ESB Facility: Grade A.** This facility was well maintained and litter free. One wall had graffiti, some of which had already been removed, but not all.

**Sandy Road - Industrial Estate: Grade A.** This industrial / business area was very good with regards to litter. The shiny Galway Bay Radio Unit was fresh presented, in contrast to some of the older / more industrial style premises, some of which appeared to be unoccupied, but weren't littered.

**N84 Headford Road: Grade A.** Road surface / markings / signage were in good order. There was a virtual absence of litter along this busy route.

**Terryland Shopping Centre: Grade A.** Colourful flower boxes at the main entrance are a nice touch. There were no litter issues at this shopping centre environment – clearly it is very well managed.

**Dunnes Stores Car Park: Grade A.** A freshly presented car park environment with all elements in good order. Minimal litter items to be seen.

**Deposit Return Scheme - Dunnes Stores: Grade A.** The 'free standing' facility within the car park and the separate facility just inside the entrance were both spotless. A message on one of the facilities indicated that 'Bin full – call staff'.

**Westside Amenity Park: Grade B.** An extensive site, incorporating large grass area / PE Equipment / Skate Park etc. Dog fouling signage: '*Our Children Play Here, No Fouling*' / '*Love Your Dog, RESPECT Your City*'; '*No Dog allowed at the sports field*'. Many of the areas of this large site were well maintained and in good order. Litter items were mostly food related e.g. coffee cups, fast-food wrappers and sweet papers, along with some cardboard.

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**University Hospital, Galway: Grade C.** This large site was generally very good with regards to litter, just some occasional food related items. The main issue bringing down the litter grade was the abundance of cigarette butts (despite notices indicating that smoking is prohibited). Some of the litter bins provide the opportunity to 'recycle' waste, with small apertures designed to accommodate flat and circular items.

**Eyre Square: Grade B+.** A lovely city centre 'open' park environment with all features / aspects in good condition. Area is enhanced by colourful planting / sculptures / seating etc. There was plenty of signage indicating that drinking alcohol is prohibited but this appears to be flouted.

**Williamsgate Street: Grade B+.** This freshly presented city centre shopping street looked very well, particularly the paved pedestrian area. It just missed the top litter grade.

**Sacred Heart Church: Grade A.** A line of colourful planter boxes take away the 'bare' look of the car parking area. All aspects of the church environment and associated features were in very good order. There was a complete absence of litter in the area surveyed.

**Tusla Centre - Westside: Grade A.** The grounds / garden area well very well presented and maintained and very good with regards to litter. There was graffiti on the '*No Dogs allowed*' signage at the wooden gate entrance.

**Corrib Rangers Boys Academy – Westside: Grade A.** There was a complete absence of litter at this sports grounds – all elements were in very good order.

**Westside Resource Centre: Grade A.** A clean and practically litter free site. Lovely, colourful planting lined some of the fencing / grass area.

**Library at Westside: Grade A.** The built environment was in good order with wooden seating surrounding a planted feature to the front. Colourful children's wall mural were a lovely feature, (albeit a little worn / weathered) along with the 'Storybook Trail' panels. An excellent site in terms of litter.

**Dunnes Stores Shopping Centre: Grade A.** A fresh and welcoming shopping centre environment with all elements in good order and clear of litter.

**University of Galway: Grade A.** (formerly NUIG) All areas of this extensive campus site were freshly presented and well maintained. It was exceptionally good with regards to litter. Area was enhanced by colourful planting throughout. Litter bins designed to facilitate 'recycling' of plastics, paper, cardboard and tin cans.

**Galway Court House & Environs: Grade B+.** This attractive environment, both built environment and natural environment, were in very good order. Not much effort is required for the top litter grade.