

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

Limerick City Centre: Littered. 37<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed.

A minor improvement compared to 2023, but Limerick has slipped from its 2024 mid-year result. Some improvements were noted at Laneway between Thomandgate and High Road; Entrance to Charlotte Quay Car Park; Entrance to Cruises St. Car Park; Entrance to Henry Street Car Park at Mount Kenneth Place Corner of Cecil St & Catherine Street – this time around it just missed the top litter grade. Misc site at corner of Hyde Road and Bus Eireann recorded a great improvement, worthy of the top litter grade; O'Connell Street was very much deserving of the top litter grade and was looking very well following extensive regeneration works; Other examples of top ranking sites included Honan's Quay and Harvey's Quay – lovely riverside environments. By far the most heavily littered sites (litter blackspots) were Wasteground on the corner of Smyth's Lane and Cathedral Place and steps leading to the river at John's Castle – both had suffered from neglect and dumping.

**Dock Road: Grade A.** There was a virtual absence of litter along this busy approach route. Road surface, markings and signage were in good order. Only obvious items were cigarette butts outside Radio House – there didn't appear to be any cigarette butt disposal facilities.

**Harvey's Quay: Grade A.** A lovely riverside environment with attractive paving, picnic tables, seating, tree planting and very good visitor information signage. All aspects were in good condition and there were no litter issues.

**Upper William Street: Grade A.** The overall impression along this city centre shopping street was a very good one with fresh looking pavements and colourful hanging baskets. However, it suffers from a fairly recent phenomenon, vape stickers on the litter bins.

**M7 from Castletroy exit to Ballysimon Exit: Grade A.** This busy route was excellent in terms of litter. Road surface, markings and road signage were in very good order.

**Clare Street Park: Grade A.** A lovely city centre park with all aspects in very good condition e.g. park signage, seating, picnic tables, play equipment etc. It was spotless throughout, a role model for a Grade A site.

**Steps leading to River at John's Castle: Grade D.** The steps / area beside St. John's Castle, on Castle Street were covered in vast quantities of litter, primarily alcohol related - coffee cups, sweet wrappers, plastic bottles and cigarette butts were also present in large amounts. The railing has been vandalised / 'forced' open to allow for easy access. This has occurred right beside one of Limerick's top tourist attractions.

**O'Connell Street: Grade A.** O'Connell Street was looking very fresh following the major regeneration works e.g. paving, raised planter beds, tree planting, wooden seating, bicycle parking, silver bollards etc. – all looking very well. It was exceptionally clean, a great result for O'Connell Street.

**Basement: 38 Cecil Street: Grade C+.** Significant litter presence on the steps / in the basement of this site. Main items were food related, combined with alcohol cans / bottles. Overall impression is a poor one.

**Wasteground on the corner of Smyth's Lane and Cathedral Place: Grade D.** This was one of two most heavily littered sites surveyed in Limerick City. Dumping has taken place, along with significant accumulations of alcohol related litter, in particular, vodka bottles. Signage (dated 2023) indicates that Limerick City and County Council have taken ownership of this vacant and Neglected' Land.

**No. 20 Mallow Street: Grade C.** While there might be a very slight improvement on previous IBAL surveys, this site remained a seriously littered one. The steps were littered but it was the 'dumped' items in the basement which really brought down the litter grade. If not addressed, this will only attract similar behaviour.

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**Irishtown City Wall Park at Grattan Court: Grade C.** The overall impression at this site was of a persistent litter presence on the grass, kerbs, pavements and parking area. Bags of Items had been 'placed' at the base of the 'General Waste' green coloured 'wheely' bin.

**Laneway at Parnell Street & Con Colbert Train Station: Grade C.** It would seem that there has been no change to this laneway environment – it presented very poorly, with a mix of regular litter items and industrial waste e.g. wooden pallet / heavy duty plastic wrapping and a general air of dumping. This site is well on its way to a litter blackspot.

**Entrance to Charlotte Quay Car Park: Grade B.** This site was much improved compared to previous IBAL surveys with fresh looking planter boxes awaiting planting and attractive paving. Cleaning regime may not be thorough enough as it doesn't appear to be addressing the 'long-lie' items in the hedges at the pavements.

**Laneway between Thomandgate and High Road: Grade B.** Another site which has seen some improvement with the previous litter issues somewhat addressed. This time around the issue was in the vicinity of the laneway at the kerbs and pavements at the end of the houses / apartments.

**Laneway & Storage areas adjacent to No. 63 William Street: Grade C.** This premises was in a poor state, in need of a major clean up – litter appeared 'long-lie'.

**Corner of Cecil St & Catherine Street: Grade B+.** Litter levels were much improved at this site – this time around it just missed the top litter grade. Main items were food related e.g. fast-food wrappers, sweet papers and mineral cans.

**Laneway from Cruises St. Car Park etc: Grade C+.** (at Ellen Street entrance to Denmark Street) As well as casually discarded litter, the overflowing wheely bins are contributing to the overall impression at this site.

**Misc site at corner of Hyde Road and Bus Eireann: Grade A.** What an improvement! Now that this site has cleared up, hopefully it will be able to retain this status.

**Environs at Mount Kenneth Place: Grade B.** An untidy impression still prevails at this site and the pavements would benefit from a cleaning.

**Bicycle Bay at Con Colbert Station: Grade B.** The overall impression was somewhat littered with obvious fast-food litter presence and lower levels of sweet wrappers. The remnants of a bicycle frame (without wheels) were locked to bicycle stand.

**Entrance to Cruises St. Car Park: Grade B.** (from Little Ellen Street). There have been some changes to this site with the erection of a wooden wall at the Old Quarter, providing a pedestrian access to the car park. Overall impression with regards to litter was improved, with some issues still at the wheely bin storage area beside the car park entrance.

**Hyde Road Park: Grade A.** A clean environment, albeit with an obvious graffiti presence on some surfaces. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

**Honan's Quay: Grade A.** Functional walls have been transformed by wonderfully colourful murals – University of Limerick banner is displayed within. Bollards have been humourously painted. Public space with solid table tennis tables, seating, planted areas etc. were brightly presented. The whole area was very good with regards to litter.

**8 Upper Hartsonge Street: Grade C+.** The basement of this premises was heavily littered, mostly food related items e.g. coffee cups, plastic bottles, sweet papers and fast-food wrappers. Given that there is a 'For Sale' sign, one wonders if anybody is keeping a careful eye on it?

**Entrance to Henry Street Car Park at Mount Kenneth Place: Grade B.** Another site in Limerick which has recorded a general improvement. While not as heavily littered, there was still an untidy impression.