

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

Dublin - North Inner City: Seriously Littered. 40th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed.

This was a disappointing result for North Inner City Dublin, which showed a rise in litter levels compared to recent surveys. 10 of the 25 sites surveyed were either litter blackspots or heavily littered. However, there has been improvements at some sites, e.g. basement adjacent to St. Vincent de Paul, Sean McDermott Street; Summerhill; Rutland Street Upper & Lower; Gardiner Street, Upper; Summerhill; Railway Street. Significant Dog Fouling notices at the bottom of Buckingham Street Upper with a large poster size map of the various NEIC (North East Inner City) locations of dog bags in the areas. It is very encouraging to see the park environments scoring so well e.g. Diamond Park, Mountjoy Square park and Sean O'Casey Park, the newly created park off Sheriff Street Upper. The junction of Ossary Road and West Road and residential area at Crinian Strand were by far the most heavily littered sites surveyed – they weren't just littered, they were dumped upon. The latter is a small stretch of housing which had monumental levels of large household items strewn about on the pavement e.g. mattresses / chairs / over a dozen black sacks of rubbish, the contents disgorged by scavenging birds.

Buckingham Street, Upper: Grade C. There were large poster sized Dog Fouling notices at the bottom of Buckingham Street Upper with a map indicating the locations of the various NEIC (North East Inner City) dog bags in the area. Superficially, Buckingham Street Upper looks reasonably well with regards to litter. Closer inspection reveals the numerous large planter boxes being used as litter bins, along with noticeable loose food related items trapped between the parked cars and the pavement and some discarded bags of rubbish. A child's toy car (broken) was left in front of apartment block.

North Circular Road: Grade C+. The 'loose' litter levels along the North Circular Road (between junction with Summerhill and Sherrard St. Upper) were certainly not nearly as heavy as previous IBAL surveys but there were too many bags / sacks of rubbish for a higher litter grade. Overflowing domestic wheelie bins were also contributing to the litter as seagulls were scavenging and depositing food items on the ground. A nice new addition along this stretch of road was the tiny café Kydi & Co.

Aldborough Place: Grade C+. The recent road re-surfacing / fresh street signage has helped the overall appearance, but other aspects of this short cul-de-sac laneway presented poorly. As well as a variety of food related items there was a dead seagull on the ground – based on the condition of the seagull, it would seem that this wasn't a recent occurrence. Overflowing large red industrial bins also contributed to litter on the ground.

Foley Street: Grade B. The road surface (lovely 'olde' style cobbled street) / paving / street signage / black bollards and litter bins were all in good order along Foley Street. A colourful wall mural took away the 'bare look' of an empty site. Main litter items were food related, along with the frame of a broken bicycle which had been left at the base of a street bin. Graffiti was a feature on many surfaces.

Spencer Dock – Canal / Pathway: Grade C. The grass / seating / signage / life-belts in the immediate area were good with regards to litter. The lock area had an accumulation of a wide variety of items, including remnants of wooden pallets, black and brown wheelie bins and a suitcase, as well as food and alcohol related litter.

Sheriff Street, Upper: Grade B. There has been and continues to be major developments along this road over the last number of years – it's almost unrecognisable compared to a decade ago. The stretch between Guild Street and the Gala Store / Premier Inn Hotel was excellent with regards to litter. However, there was a definite litter presence along the stretch between Gala Store / Premier Inn Hotel and East Wall – mostly food related items, along with significant quantities of cigarette butts - much of the litter was between the parked cars and the pavement. There were some nice planter boxes outside 'Cluid Housing' building. Graffiti was a feature on many surfaces.

Bring Facility, East Road: Grade D+. This small on-street facility wasn't just littered but subject to dumping e.g. wooden pallet, suitcase, clothing and a variety of miscellaneous items, not related to the Recycle Units. The 'No Dumping' signage high up on the wall was about the only 'fresh' looking element of this facility. It has rarely been anything but heavily littered.

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Sean O'Casey Park: Grade A. (off Sheriff St. Upper). All aspects of this small, 'open' park, set amongst apartments / offices were in excellent order e.g. sensory play area, seating, water fountain, seating with built in chess / drafts board, lovely planting etc. It is a lovely space. There was a complete absence of litter throughout.

3 Arena / Point Depot – Environs: Grade A. The area to the front of this large building presented very well. It was spotless throughout. All features were well presented e.g. attractive paving, seating, stylish litter bins (with opportunities to 'separate' waste).

Dublin Landings / Slate Street: Grade A. An exceptionally freshly and attractively landscaped pedestrian area, linking the Liffey with Mayor Street Upper. All aspects were in excellent condition – there was a complete absence of litter throughout. This would be very much in keeping with the fact that the development was 2022 Winner for Urban Design & Architectural Design Awards.

Spencer Dock LUAS: Grade A. Not quite as spotless as usual (some alcohol bottles were neatly lined up at the base of the litter bin), but still deserving of the top litter grade. All aspects were in very good order.

Spencer Dock Park: Grade B+. This small 'open' park beside the Luas stop provides some welcome greenery in a massively developed area. The one visible litter bin was somewhat tucked away in the shrubbery, not immediately apparent to users of the park. Main items were cigarette butts and alcohol caps at the base of the seating, along with fast-food wrappers and alcohol bottles. The 'Bee / Bug Hotels' are nice features.

Mountjoy Square – Park: Grade A. A lovely oasis of green space in the heart of the city. Area was enhanced by colourful wall mural and mosaics surrounding some trees. All aspects of the park were in very good condition e.g. seating / signage / PE equipment / playground etc. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the park – a credit to the users and those responsible for the maintenance same.

Sherrard Street, Upper: Grade D+. The main issue along this short, mostly residential street, are the bags of domestic rubbish on the ground / in overflowing wheelie bins – the contents of which have been ripped open and scattered about along one side of the street. The opposite side didn't suffer from that issue but was lined with a variety of loose food and alcohol related items. Would this street / surrounding street be suitable candidates for the 'collapsible' bins which were talked about some time ago?

Diamond Park: Grade A. Diamond Park was completely reconfigured / re-constructed and officially opened by the Lord Mayor in August 2023. All aspects were in excellent condition – colourful surfaces underfoot / play equipment / permanent table tennis table / seating and lovely planting throughout. There was a complete absence of litter throughout.

Basement adjacent to St. Vincent de Paul, Sean McDermott Street: Grade B. There were not the same heavy levels as previous IBAL surveys at this site. Hopefully the loose items currently present don't build up to accumulations.

Rutland Street Upper & Lower: Grade A. A much improved site compared to many years ago. The former school building has been boarded up with works taking place – there was no litter directly associated with this site. There was a virtual absence of litter along this residential street.

Gardiner Street, Upper: Grade A. The overall impression created along this street was significantly improved compared to recent IBAL surveys – it wasn't subject to the dumping as before. This time around there were just smaller litter items, not in large quantities. Graffiti was a feature on many different surfaces – wall / electric boxes / post box / litter bins etc.

Summerhill: Grade B. Summerhill is a very long stretch of road, the majority of which was much improved in terms of litter - particularly the stretch from Gardiner Street and in front of the residential developments along the same side as Summerhill Primary Care Centre. The latter was particularly freshly presented / landscaped. However, the area to the front of various premises / shops across the road was not. There were bags of rubbish, the contents of which were strewn about with birds foraging. It almost feels like this stretch of the road doesn't get the same level of attention as the rest of the road.

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Mary's Mansions: Grade B+. The open area to the front of this relatively recent development looked very well with some lovely planting / seating / grass space. If it wasn't for the loose litter at the base of the Mary's Mansions signage on Railway Street, this would have been a top ranking site – an easy and quick fix.

Railway Street: Grade B. This is another street which is almost unrecognisable compared to just a few short years ago. Major developments, combined with recent road surfacing has resulted in a much fresher environment, with a further planning application notice on the one site – the rear of the former Magdalene Laundry on Sean McDermott Street. Much of the footpath was very good with regards to litter but there was an obvious presence in places, particularly in front of the residential units on the right hand side, coming from Mary's Mansions. Main items were food related, along with plastic wrapping and dog fouling.

Junction of Ossary Road and West Road: Grade D. Evidence of 'long-lie' items, not just litter but larger dumped items on a site marked as 'Private Property' with an abundance of security items / no dumping notices, to no effect. Even the approach to this site, along Ossary Road, was very poor, heavily littered.

Crinian Strand: Grade D. This short stretch of residential housing has surpassed itself in terms of the volume of dumping - this time around there were large household items e.g. mattresses / furniture discarded along the pavement, along with at least a dozen black sacks of rubbish - the contents of which were being scavenged by seagulls.

Basements 61 / 62 / 63 / 64 Ballybough: Grade C. The litter in this series of basements appeared relatively recent i.e. evidence of general clean up but still there was a heavy presence, not just food related items but also packaging / remnants of FastGas cylinders. Plenty of construction taking place across the road at a formerly boarded up site.

Environs of Royal Canal at Newcomber Bridge / Ossary Road: Grade C. Levels of casually discarded food / alcohol related litter thrown over the bridge appeared a little lighter, but still pronounced.