

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

Tralee: Moderately Littered. 28th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed.

Tralee again fell short of clean status. However, it is good to see and hear about the work of Tralee Tidy Towns and local business (e.g. JRI America staff members took part in clean up at Casement / Tralee Train Station). Not much effort is required for some of the moderately littered sites to get the top litter grade e.g. Market Street. Improvements were noted at Daly's Lane – overall impression was much enhanced. The streetscape along The Mall was very good with lovely planter boxes, wooden seating, signage etc – this site was very much deserving of the top litter grade. Despite the efforts of both train station staff and Tralee Tidy Towns, Tralee / Casement Train Station was heavily littered, with significant accumulations of food related items near the coffee kiosk / at the base of the shrubbery.

Clashlehan Roundabout to Roundabout with Kerry Co Co: Grade A. An excellent site in terms of presentation and creating a positive first impression of the town. The grass verges and sculpture at Clashlehan Roundabout were in very good condition. The overall impression with regards to litter was a good one with a virtual absence throughout.

Ráth Óraigh: Grade B. The short road leading to the residential area was somewhat littered, mostly in the grass on the pavements – main items were food related with heavy levels of sweet wrappers and lower levels of fast-food wrappers and coffee cups. The estate itself was clear of litter. The vacant site wasn't included as part of the survey but was littered.

Kerry Community Service - HSE Bldg: Grade B. The built environment was in very good order, freshly presented and well maintained, with the entrance a welcoming one. The area was let down by litter in the hedge that runs parallel to the front of the building and along the footpath that runs along the side of the building. A more thorough approach to cleaning could easily address this.

The Horan Centre: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout this shopping centre environment. Trolley bays, car park and area to the front of the shops which front on to the public road were in good order.

Deposit Return Scheme - Dunnes Stores - Horan Centre: Grade B. There were too many small items of litter, not related to the use of the facility for the top litter grade. A little extra care on behalf of the users and more thorough approach to cleaning would solve this.

Tralee / Casement Train Station: Grade C+. Tralee Tidy Towns are working with Iarnród Éireann to address the litter issue as the latter don't have the resources to maintain the shrub bed / keep up with litter picking. The area directly beside the front door was clear of litter, there were small amounts in the car park, but it was the accumulations at the base of the shrubbery, and area next to the coffee kiosk which really brought down the litter grade. Would increased 'litter awareness notices' be part of the solution?

Market Street: Grade B. There was considerable improvement noted at this shopping street, with the lack of vapes very encouraging. The built environment was in good order with individual premises freshly presented. The main litter items this time around were cigarette butts with lower levels of sweet wrappers. Not much effort is now required to get the top litter grade.

Daly's Lane: Grade B. An improvement was noted at this town centre site, and we recognise the communication from Tidy Towns indicating that Kerry County Council are addressing the issue of the derelict building. The 'Daly's Lane' street signage was in good condition but the wall upon which it was located was in poor order with cracks / peeling paint and graffiti. It was somewhat improved with regards to litter. This time around, the most obvious litter items were alcohol bottles, with lower levels of other food related items, cigarette butts and other miscellaneous items.

Caherslee Approach Road: Grade A. This route, with mature tree planting, was very much deserving of the top litter grade. There was no litter directly associated with the pavement enhancement works. The overall impression created was a very positive one.

The Mall: Grade A. While The Mall was very good with regards to litter (just some chewing gum / cigarette butts) the overall impression of the paving / street surface was somewhat grimy. The remainder of the area presented very well e.g. large planter boxes, wooden seating, street bins, signage etc.