

## An Taisce Report - IBAL Anti-Litter League, Survey 1, 2025

**Cork City Centre: 26<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.**

**A welcome result for Cork, its city centre regaining clean status after a number of years. This time around there were no litter blackspots and just two seriously littered sites – this is great progress and well done to all concerned. Much improved sites included Kennedy Quay, Penrose Quay, William Street and Granville Place – while still not quite top-ranking, they were much better than in previous IBAL surveys. The use of a colourful wall mural certainly brightened up South Terrace. Examples of top ranking sites were Fitzgerald Park, Patrick Street (a commendable achievement), Shalom Park and Mardyke Walk.**

**South Terrace: Grade A.** The colourful wall mural brightens up this tree-lined stretch of buildings, some of which were in poor condition. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the stretch surveyed.

**Cotter's Street: Grade A.** This short, narrow city centre street had excellent road surface / markings. Apart from some cigarette butts, directly outside NDLS, there was a complete absence of litter. There didn't appear to be any facilities for the disposal of same.

**Trinity Bridge: Grade B.** The level of cigarette butts along this short pedestrian bridge was just too high for the top litter grade. With a little extra care and attention on behalf of smokers, this could easily be achieved.

**Sullivan's Quay: Grade B+.** There were loose scatterings of litter on the ground, as well as plastic ties on poles and some broken glass. Background environment indicators presented poorly e.g. broken seating, cracked pavements, derelict sites.

**Sherman Crawford Street: Grade A.** There were no litter issues along this street. Road surface and markings were in good order; footpath was cracked in places and there was some graffiti.

**Fitzgerald's Park: Grade A.** Signage at the entrance was clearly presented and in very good condition. The park itself was very well served by litter bins. All aspects within the park were in very good order. It was excellent with regards to litter.

**Mardyke Walk: Grade A.** The overall impression created along this tree lined route was a very positive one. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout. 'Olde' style street lamps were a lovely feature, some of the double yellow lines were freshly presented, other stretches were worn away.

**Prince's Street: Grade B.** 'Tiered' flower boxes with an abundance of colourful flowering were a welcome addition along this pedestrianised city centre street. It's been reconfigured to accommodate outdoor dining and adorned with parasols / outdoor lighting. The overall impression was a good one, but significant butt / chewing gum presence prevented the top litter grade.

**Grand Parade: Grade B+.** A 'trio' of bins included regular street litter / 'dry mixed recycling / pizza boxes only. The colourful pattern of paving was freshly presented. Tree planting / signage / seating were in very good condition. With a little extra effort, this could easily be a top ranking site.

**Grafton Street: Grade B+.** A much improved site compared to previous IBAL surveys, this time around it just missed the top litter grade. An abundance of colourful bunting certainly adds some welcome colour to an otherwise rather narrow and bleak alleyway. Graffiti was widespread, on numerous surfaces.

**Patrick Street: Grade A.** Patrick Street was looking exceptionally well, with paving, seating, bicycle parking, tree planting etc all in very good order. The colourful mural looked very well. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout – it was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

**Anderson Quay: Grade C+.** Much of the riverside stretch of Anderson Quay presented well e.g. paving, seating, and overall streetscape. However, one location, the open space next to the bridge, while somewhat improved, was still dumped upon. It is almost like this area is not part of / separate to

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the regular cleaning regime. Much of it appeared 'long-lie', indicating a thorough cleaning in quite some time. Apart from this isolated area, cigarette butts and coffee cups were most obvious, with lower levels of other food related items.

**Kennedy Quay: Grade B.** A hugely improved environment, compared to several years when this site wasn't just littered but subject to neglect and abuse. Overall impression was of a moderately littered site (all manner of food related items), predominantly at the city end of the site. Well done to all concerned. Ideally, this upward trajectory will continue.

**Albert Road: Grade A.** There were no obvious litter issues along this approach route. One side was tree-lined – a lovely addition to any environment. There was no litter directly associated with any derelict buildings in the area.

**Shalom Park: Grade A.** This small park environment was very much deserving of the top litter grade – seating / signage / 'olde' style street lamps / dog fouling facilities etc. were in very good order. This site was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

**Kent Station: Grade C+.** The main station entrance presented well, but a more thorough approach to the cleaning of the car park is required to address the heavy build up of 'long-lie' litter. The most obvious litter items were cigarette butts, bus / train tickets and chewing gum, along with lower levels of coffee cups, plastic bags, fast-food wrappers, mineral cans and sweet wrappers.

**Penrose Quay: Grade B+.** Another site which was much improved compared to previous IBAL surveys – this time around it just missed the top litter grade. The paving along the river side of the road looked very well – tree planting / seating / shrubbery were in good order.

**York Street: Grade B.** The main litter issue along this residential road was cigarette butts, along with lower levels of sweet wrappers.

**Carrolls Quay: Grade B.** As well as the heavy cigarette butt presence, particularly at the base of the trees / next to the kerb, other litter items included plastic ties on poles, coffee cups and sweet wrappers. Graffiti was also an issue at this stie.

**Cornmarket Street: Grade B.** The overall presentation of this environment was very good with excellent paving, stainless steel seating / tables and tree planting. The visual impact is let down by significant cigarette butt and chewing gum presence, with lower levels of sweet papers and fast-food wrappers.

**South Main Street: Grade B+.** Significant road works / enhancement works were taking place along some parts of this street. The 'Brick Room' presented very well. The overall impression was of small, scattered amounts of litter, too many pieces for the top litter grade.

**St. Peter's Park: Grade B.** A small, long and narrow park which was freshly presented and maintained e.g. seating, litter bins etc. were in good order. Main litter items were fast-food wrappers, sweet papers, cardboard bottles and cigarette butts.

**Grenville Place: Grade B.** Certainly, there was some improvement compared to previous IBAL Litter surveys; however, cigarette butts were very obvious, with lower levels of food related litter. Perhaps the smokers are coming from the Mercy Hospital, close-by, and this would most likely be a 'Smoke Free Zone' where there would be no provision for butts.

**Deposit Return Facility, at Tesco, Paul Street: Grade A.** There were no litter issues in the immediate vicinity of this 'in-store' facility. A heavily used facility at the time of the survey, based on the number of people queuing to use it.

**William Street: Grade B+.** Litter levels were much improved at this dark and dank narrow city centre laneway, the walls of which were covered with graffiti.