

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

Cork Northside: 39th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Seriously Littered.

Certainly, there's been a dip in the result for Cork Northside, with just four out of a total of twenty five sites surveyed getting the top litter grade. Even if some of the moderately littered sites improved, that could make a difference to the overall result. As a general note, many of the sites surveyed within this area were devoid of litter bins / litter awareness notices / cigarette butt units / dog fouling signage and facilities for same. Improvements were noted at Bring Centre, Aldi (evidence of a clean-up but still somewhat littered); Fairhill Drive was much improved and very much deserving the top litter grade this time around; Similarly, Shops at corner of Bakers Road and Cathedral Road was a worthy Grade A site and much improved. At the other end of the spectrum, by far the most heavily littered sites included Wasteground at Fairfield Meadows, Vacant site: North Monastery Rd, St. Mary's Rd and Gerald Griffin Avenue, No. 7 Pophams Road and No 39 and 40 Cathedral Walk – the presence of four such heavily littered / dumped upon sites and the dearth of top ranking sites will have impacted Cork North City's overall ranking.

Bring Centre at Aldi: Grade B. There was a notable improvement at this facility, with evidence of a clean-up. Main items this time around were caps / lids, plastic bags and cardboard boxes. The area to the rear of the recycle units presented poorly and may attract casual discarding of items.

Fairhill Drive: Grade A. The overall impression created along this route was a positive one with a virtual absence of litter throughout. Grass was lush and recently cut.

Shops at corner of Bakers Road and Cathedral Road: Grade A. Another site which was much improved and very much deserving of the top litter grade this time around. Bicycle parking was very fresh in appearance.

Vacant site at Aldi: Grade C. This site (formerly Costa Coffee) was heavily littered with plastic bottles and sweet wrappers being the most obvious items and lower levels of fast-food wrappers and plastic bags. These were scattered along the steps and at the fence. The storage area behind the fence presents very poorly – this may well become a magnet for further items.

Car Park and Wasteground at Upper Fairhill and Bridge Valley Park: Grade D+. While there was some evidence of attention to this site since it was last visited by IBAL, it has remained subject to neglect and abuse. Many of the items were 'recent', with fresh litter in the hedges and car parking perimeter.

Cushing Place: Grade B+. Another much improved site, with works underway – hopefully once these works are complete, Cushing Place will be a top ranking site. As well as loose litter items, there was evidence of fire damage in the immediate environs.

Parklands Drive: Grade B+. Parklands Drive has scored better than previous IBAL surveys. The overall impression was of a tidy environment, which just missed the top litter grade. There were too many loose litter items on the footpath and grasslands.

Bridge Valley Park: Grade B+. This large expanse of park presented well with grasslands recently attended. There was very casual discarding of litter around the red seating area. Main litter items were food related e.g. plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers and sweet papers.

Churchfield Road: Grade C+. As well as the loose litter along the pavements, there was a constant and steady stream trapped in the grass / shrubbery areas – much of it appeared 'long-lie', indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time.

Aldi, Mount. Agnes Road: Grade B+. Not much effort is required for this site to get the top litter grade. Loose litter in the loading area and trolley bay took away from an otherwise well-presented environment.

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Gurranbraher Road: Grade B+. While somewhat improved, cigarette butts were pronounced, along with sweet wrappers and some chewing gum. A more thorough approach to cleaning, particularly between the pavement and the wall and cracks along the pavement could improve the overall impression.

Wasteground at Fairfield Meadows: Grade D. This site wasn't just littered dumped upon. Large scale and widespread dumping has taken place over a large area – all manner of household dumping has taken place. Planning Permission notice relates to 2023. Where does responsibility for this site now lie? It will only deteriorate further if not addressed.

Popham's Road: Grade B+. Litter levels were lower than previous surveys, but still a definite presence. There didn't appear to be any bins in the immediate vicinity of the shops along this route – a common thread amongst many of the sites surveyed in Cork North City.

No. 14 Cathedral Walk: Grade A. The installation of a solid metal gate means that litter / dumping is no longer visible to passersby. That's not to say that it all was fine behind the fence, but it wasn't visible to the public.

Hillgrove Lane: Grade C+. A poorly presented residential area with a variety of miscellaneous items / dumping along the footpath and significant graffiti presence.

Kilmore Road Lower: Grade A. The litter problems from previous surveys have been addressed – this time around Kilmore Road Lower presented much better. There was no visible litter directly associated with a boarded up house.

Churchfield Avenue: Grade B. There was a definite litter presence at this residential area, levels were such that it was last a seriously littered one. Litter was visible on the pavements, hedges and grass areas. Main items were sweet wrappers, with lower levels of fast-food wrappers, plastic bags and plastic bottles.

Vacant site: North Monastery Rd, St. Mary's Rd and Gerald Griffin Avenue: Grade D. Large scale dumping has taken place, not just domestic, but seemingly industrial, based on the materials present. There has been no visible improvement since previous IBAL surveys.

No 39 and 40 Cathedral Walk: Grade D. Bags and bags of rubbish were visible within the small front garden of these two boarded up houses.

Hedges and Gateway at corner of Bakers Road and Cathedral Road: Grade C+. A more thorough approach to the cleaning regime, including the removal of the long-term build-up of litter at the base of the shrubbery ./ planted areas is required to address the litter issue.

Wasteground at corner of Thomas Kent Park and Ascaill an Ghleanna: Grade C. This site was characterised by a mix of both dumped materials and fresh loose litter. It is only likely to deteriorate further, if not addressed.

No. 7 Pophams Road: Grade D. This boarded up house has scored poorly in previous IBAL surveys, but this time around the dumping appears to be more pronounced. Not only was it dumped upon, but it has also suffered from vandalism and graffiti – and this, right in the middle of a series of houses.

Shops at Ascaill an Ghleanna / The Glen / Thomas Kent Park: Grade C+. As well as casually discarded food related items along the pavement, there were larger / bulkier items in the overgrown grass close-by.

Vacant Property at Corner of Upper Fair Hill and Bride Valley View: Grade C+. Casually discarded litter items included large quantities of fast-food litter, sweet wrappers, plastic bottles and mineral cans. This was primarily recently discarded and lay amongst the significant weed growth.

Electric Service and Storage buildings at the corner of Farranferris Avenue and Popham Road: Grade C. A narrow laneway harboured a myriad of miscellaneous items, including street cones and various items of debris.