

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

**Galway City Centre: 10<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cites surveyed. Clean to European Norms.**

**Galway City Centre** again scored very well with 16 out of 25 sites getting the top litter grade and there were just two seriously littered ones. Top ranking sites included the Galway Famine Ship Memorial, Galway Shopping Centre, IDA Galway Business Park and The Prom. These sites were not just good with regards to litter, but overall presentation and maintenance was excellent. Galway Regional Hospital continues to be plagued by heavy levels of cigarette butts (and lower levels of food related litter). The South Park Jetty was heavily littered.

**Claddagh Playground: Grade A.** All aspects of this playground facility were in good order – equipment, signage, seating / picnic tables and there was a lovely marine themed mural. It was excellent with regards to litter.

**Galway Rovers Social Club: Grade A.** While the area was heavily weeded, it wasn't littered. It looks like attempts have been made to remove the weeds with residual material on the ground.

**R338 Oranmore Approach Road: Grade B.** (in to traffic lights at R921 junction). Road surface / markings / signage were in good order along this moderately littered road. Main Items were food related (.e.g coffee cups, plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers sweet papers and plastic bags). Other items included plastic pipe and animal food bag. Pretty much all of the litter was on edge of the road / in scrub / shrubbery.

**Lough Atalia Playground: Grade B+.** Dog fouling sign 'Love your Dog, RESPECT Your City' / 'Bag It, Bit It' was colourful and impactful. There was large 'No Smoking' signage on the perimeter fence, along with regular rules associated with the use of playground. Equipment was in good order, but the area was let down by casually discarded fast-food wrappers and sweet papers.

**Port of Galway Docks: Grade B+.** Most of the units were clean, litter free and well cared for. However, it was impossible to ignore the industrial wrappings / plastic along the ground in open communal areas. This should be an easy fix and ideally will be addressed before further items gather. There didn't appear to be any obvious litter at vacant sites.

**Port of Galway Marina: Grade B.** While the marina towpath and visible water areas were clear of litter, the pathway running the length of the harbour was less well presented (heavily weeded) and somewhat littered – some food items, along with plastic wrapping, heavy levels of cigarette butts and a discarded shopping trolley.

**South Park Jetty: Grade C.** The overall impression along this popular waterside feature was somewhat neglected. It's almost like a boat graveyard'. While the individual decaying boats weren't considered as litter, the debris on the ground presented poorly, along with casually discarded litter.

**Deposit Return Scheme, Dunnes Stores, Gateway Shopping Park: Grade B+.** The 'rejected items' container was overflowing, with items spilling on to the ground. Other items included loose sweet papers.

**Galway Shopping Centre: Grade A.** A freshly presented shopping environment with paving, planting, bollards, wooden seating and litter bins all in good order. It was excellent with regards to litter.

**Recycle Facility, Distributor Road: Grade B+.** This large facility just missed the top litter grade. Bin units presented well. An exposed area at the end had small items, along with a cardboard box on top of the units.

**Western Distributor Road: Grade A.** A clean and freshly presented road with a virtual absence of litter throughout. A lovely feature was the abundance of planting / greenery at the roundabout.

**Grattan Park: Grade A.** There was a complete absence of litter at this small residential cul-de-sac. The overall impression was of a well-cared for environment with house-proud residents.

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**Galway Famine Ship Memorial: Grade A.** The memorial and immediate environment were attractively presented in a seafront location. All elements were in very good order, as is fitting for such a memorial. It was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

**Grattan Beach: Grade A.** The joint 'Galway City Co / University of Galway / CARO signage re Sand Dunes had been completely defaced. It looked like a 'clean-up' had taken place, the contents of which were awaiting collection. The remainder of the site presented well with litter bins / life belt in good order.

**The Prom: Grade A.** There was a virtual absence of litter along this heavily used amenity. Wooden seating looked very well. A relatively new feature was the bright yellow 'solar bench' for phone charging. Litter bins and recycle units were freshly presented. Overall, The Prom was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

**Leisureland: Grade A.** All was in good order at this facility with bicycle parking and planting freshly presented. It was excellent with regards to litter.

**Prom Car Park: Grade A.** Despite heavy usage on day of IBAL survey, this car park was very clean and litter free. Bicycle parking facility was freshly presented.

**Hubble Living: Grade A.** A freshly presented living complex with all elements in very good condition and very well-tended gardens / grounds.

**County Hall & Environs: Grade B.** The overall presentation of this site was excellent, but it was let down by some casually discarded food related items and significant quantities of cigarette butts, particularly underneath the seating area – this is despite the presence of a couple of butt disposal units in the immediate area. With a little more care and attention, this site could easily be top ranking.

**William Street: Grade A.** The paving along this pedestrians street looked freshly laid and very well. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout this busy shopping street.

**Galway City Museum & Environs: Grade A.** The built environment, associated signage and tree planting and associated signage were in very good condition. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

**Galway Regional Hospital: Grade C.** While cigarette butts remain the most obvious litter items (despite plenty of signage indicating that it's a 'No Smoking Zone'), there was plenty of food-related items (e.g. coffee cups and fast-food wrappers), some of which were being foraged from bins by birds. Litter was most obvious at the main entrance and Emergency Department entrances, but not exclusively.

**IDA Galway Business Park: Grade A.** An exceptionally freshly presented and maintained business park environment with an abundance of attractive planting / greenery throughout. All was in very good order. The entire area was excellent with regards to litter.

**N69 Approach: Grade A.** (in to junction of Browne Roundabout / Thomas Hynes Road). This route presented very well with buildings, pavements, bus stop shelters, grass and planted areas all in very good order. Overall, it was very much deserving of the top litter grade.