

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

**Limerick City: 36<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered.**

An improved result for Limerick, with no litter blackspots, but still a significant number of seriously littered sites. There was evidence of what looked like a new anti-litter initiative: *'Love your Limerick, Don't Litter' / 'The only cure for Litter is... You'.*

Top ranking city centre sites included Henry Street, Thomas Street, O'Connell Street and People's Park – it wasn't just the lack of litter which sets these sites apart but the overall presentation and maintenance of same e.g. signage, tree planting, seating etc. Sites which scored poorly in Limerick were frequently back-street / laneway environments and basements of various older properties: examples of these included Laneway at Cruises Street Car Park, Laneway at Parnell Street Service Area and Laneway between No. 9A and 10 William Street.

**No. 31 & 32 Cecil Street: Grade C.** While there was some improvement on previous IBAL surveys, there was still a significant litter presence, primarily plastic bottles and sweet wrappers, with lower levels of mineral cans and cigarette butts, along with miscellaneous discarded items. Planning permission notice relates to January 2024 – somebody is 'claiming' ownership, albeit well over a year ago.

**Hartstonge Street: Grade A.** A much improved site, with previous litter issues addressed. Paving was freshly presented and planted areas looked very well. This time around it was very much deserving of the top litter grade – well done to all concerned.

**Henry Street: Grade A.** A very freshly presented city centre street with paving, stainless stool boards, colourful planting, visitor signage etc. all in very good order. Building renovations have certainly contributed to the overall presentation of the street. Henry Street was commendable.

**People's Park: Grade A.** This site has typically scored very well in previous IBAL surveys – things were no different this time around. Excellent signage relating to the history of People's Park – it was colourful, with a map and full of information. Other park signage was in excellent order – clear and legible. Picnic tables, seating, litter bins etc. were well maintained. The park was spotless throughout.

**The Crescent: Grade A.** (top of O'Connell Street) An attractively presented and well maintained city centre environment with fine buildings, sculpture and colourful planting. The overall impression created here was a very positive one.

**Vacant building between No. 30 Cecil Street and Engineering School: Grade A.** Success! There has been a total transformation at this site- previous litter issues have been addressed – well done to all concerned. Once a site is cleaned up, experience shows that it can be easier to be maintained. Hopefully this can now be sustained.

**Corner of Hyde Road and Con Colbert Station: Grade B+.** A much improved site, this time around it just missed the top litter grade. As with the previous site, now that the previous issues have been addressed, hopefully this will be easier to manage / keep clean. To prevent further littering, the installation of a 'cover' could make a difference.

**No. 21 Mallow Street – Basement: Grade B+.** Another Limerick City site which was significantly improved but there's still more work to be done to warrant the top litter grade. There were still remnants of 'long-lie' litter and site would be much enhanced with a thorough washing.

**38 Cecil Street – Basement: Grade C.** Minor works haven't been enough to shift this site from a seriously littered one. Much of the litter appeared to be 'long-lie', indicating a lack of thorough cleaning in quite some time.

**Corner of Smyths lane and Cathedral Place: Grade B.** Previous litter / dumping issues have primarily been addressed. This time around, the only obvious items were alcohol bottles, significant quantities of same. Signage attached to green fencing indicates that *'Limerick City and Council are now the registered owner of this property, having acquired it pursuant to the Derelict Sites Acts...17/07/2023'*

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**No. 20 Mallow Street, Basement: Grade C+.** A slight improvement, but still an obvious litter presence, a mix of both recent and 'long-lie' items. Railings and steps were somewhat rusty, and the overall impression was grimy.

**Dublin Road: Grade A.** While the road surface and markings were in good order, some of the paving was cracked. There was minor litter in the hedges at the pedestrian pathways, but the overall impression was that this busy site was deserving of the top litter grade.

**Thomas Street: Grade A.** The streetscape was excellent with lovely paving, tree planting, colourful flowers, wooden seating etc. all contributing to a very fresh appearance. The cigarette butt facility at the top of the large litter bin was well used and there was no obvious butts along the street.

**O'Connell Street: Grade A.** After a long period of significant works, O'Connell Street has been transformed – road surface / paving / tree planting / raised flower beds / wooden seating etc. all looked very well. Even on a grey rainy day, it managed to look well. There were no litter issues throughout.

**Laneway at Cruises Street Car Park: Grade C.** A very casual attitude to the disposal of both litter and other miscellaneous items has reigned at this site for many years. It looks like some of the bags of rubbish have been foraged, never a good sign.

**Environs of Pedestrian Entrance at the Old Quarter to Cruises St. Car Park: Grade B+.** This site just missed the top litter grade. Chewing gum, random pieces of paper and graffiti featured. With a little extra care and attention, this could be a top ranking site.

**Chapel Street: Grade B+.** A lovely, and unusual feature, along this street was the art work underfoot – used to great effect. Discarded cardboard boxes and chewing gum took away from an otherwise well-presented and maintained environment.

**Laneway at Parnell Street Service Area: Grade C.** The overall impression at this site was one of neglect and abuse, over a prolonged period of time. Many of the issues related to in and around the industrial bin storage area, but not exclusively. Significant quantities of a wide range of litter, primarily food and alcohol related, had gathered throughout. Other miscellaneous items had been discarded. All in all, this will likely deteriorate even further if not addressed.

**Grattan Court: Grade C.** (at the Old City Wall, Irishtown) There has been little to no improvement since this residential area was last surveyed. The *CCTV in Operation* signage appears to be having no effect, in terms of littering / dumping. Dog fouling signage was freshly presented. Heavy levels of a wide variety of food and alcohol related items were present throughout.

**Laneway between No. 9A and 10 William Street: Grade C.** This site presented very poorly with significant quantities of all manner of litter, close to the large industrial green bins / at the entrance to the lane / behind the gate. It would seem that the issue relates to local businesses.

**William Street: Grade A.** A very freshly presented city centre street with a virtual absence of litter throughout. Paving / street signage / litter bins were in good order – the overall impression was a positive one. Vape stickers on bins, while unsightly, aren't necessarily being considered as litter.

**Steps at John's Castle: Grade C+.** While this site presented marginally better than previous IBAL survey, it still has some way to go. Food and alcohol related litter were very much in evidence, despite the significant weed growth. It would be a challenging site to clean but a pity it is so heavily littered, particularly so close to one of Limerick's biggest tourist attractions.

**Carr Street: Grade B+.** (and junction with Robert Street / Cornmarket Row) With a little extra care and attention on behalf of smokers / those chewing gum, this could easily be a top ranking site. Colourful wall mural '*Bin Your Butt*' was eye-catching, but seemingly not as effective as it might be. This was part of a *Love Limerick, Don't Litter* feature on a long stretch of wall.

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**Environs of Apartments at entrance to Charlotte Quay Car Park: Grade B.** (from Broad Street). There was a very obvious litter presence at this site, the level was such that it could quickly become a seriously littered one. Visitors to the apartments are greeted with litter at the gates and adjacent hedges.

**Bring Facility, Dock Road: Grade C.** Very large and colourful mural in the immediate environs has a variety of panels including, '*The only cure for Litter is.....You.* As is so often the case with on-street Bring Facilities, the area to the front presented well and all appeared in good order. The area to the rear of the units told a completely different story. Is this area being cleaned when the units are being emptied? / Does this form part of a cleaning regime?