

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

Mahon: 27th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

Congratulations to Mahon on clean status – the area has seen huge progress in a short couple of years, when it was very much towards the bottom of the IBAL League. This time around there were no litter blackspots and just two seriously littered sites. There have been extensive works over the last year, resulting in some lovely streetscapes / seating areas / planting etc. It is great to hear of the local Tidy Towns initiatives. There was a notable improvement at Pedestrian link to Aldi – area has been much enhanced with new footpath and tree-planting. Two sites were the cleanest the surveyor had seen: Avenue de Rennes and Skehard Road.

Avenue de Rennes : Grade B+. Significant improvements were noted here, 'the best yet' according to the surveyor. Major works have taken place resulting in attractively laid bicycle path / paving and multi-coloured bollards – all contributing to a very fresh appearance. Dog fouling was an issue, perhaps more obvious given the light colouring and fresh nature of the pavement.

Retail off Ave de Rennes: Grade C+. While there was construction work taking place in the immediate vicinity, there were no obvious litter directly associated with it. While there had been a small improvement here, there was still a heavy fast-food related presence (particularly directly outside Legers Traditional Take Away) and cigarette butts, primarily outside Ladbroke's. There didn't appear to be any visible cigarette butt units / litter awareness notices / litter bins.

St. Michaels Lawn @ The Maples: Grade B. The recent paving, seating and planted areas at this residential development looked very well. Most of the litter was food related, primarily sweet wrappers, with lower levels of fast-food wrappers and cans, along with cigarette butts – much of the litter was at the base of the blue railings.

Cappanoole and St. Michael's Drive: Grade C+. There was no significant improvement at this site with a heavy food related presence, cigarette butts and dog fouling. Some of the litter is emanating from an individual residence and spilling into the public realm.

R852 Approach - from junction with N40 to junction with Retail area: Grade B+. This freshly presented route just missed the top litter grade. With a little bit of extra care and attention, particularly by bus-stop users, this could easily be achieved.

Mahon Retail Park: Grade A. An exceptionally freshly presented retail environment with all aspects in very good condition e.g. car park surface / paving / signage. The trees / grass / planted areas within the car park were lovely features – not something that is always seen in large retail park environments. Attractive paving lined the entrance areas to the shops. The clothing bin units were well presented and maintained. The whole area was excellent with regards to litter.

Cork City to Passage West Greenway: Grade A. (from junction 10 off N40 to Skehard Road) This is a wonderful amenity which was very much deserving of the top litter grade, with a virtual absence of litter. The excellent signage associated with it has been heavily defaced.

Pedestrian link to Aldi: Grade B+. Significant improvements were noted at this site. Enhancement works included a new footpath, recent tree-planting and the cutting back of heavy vegetation. The overall impression was of an area which just missed the top litter grade, compared to the previous heavily littered status.

Skehard Road: Grade A. Major road works were underway, but they didn't impact in any negative way on the litter situation.

Deposit Return Scheme, Tesco: Grade A. There was a complete absence of litter in the immediate environs of this facility.