

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

NIC Dublin:

Across all the sites surveyed, only two were judged 'clean' – Mountjoy Square Park and the junction of Annesley Place and Poplar Row. This represents a significant deterioration on last year.

Plastic bags of domestic rubbish (which had been ripped apart with the contents strewn about) are contributing to the litter situation at some of the sites included below e.g. Summerhill Parade, Mountjoy Square and Summerhill. The residential areas of Spencer Dock and Crinian Strand were not just littered but subject to dumping – as is frequently the case of these two adjoining sites. The basement of former DID Electrical site had heavy levels of dumping – where does responsibility for this site now lie?

Mayor Square Luas Station: Grade B+. This was a freshly presented environment, with all aspects in very good order. It just missed the top litter grade, there were too many small pieces of paper / sweet wrappers – with a little extra care and attention, this could easily be achieved.

Sheriff Street Park: Grade C+. This park usually scores well, but this time around it presented poorly, with a very obvious litter presence in the immediate vicinity of the children's playground. In contrast, the adjacent football pitch was litter free.

Spencer Dock – Residential: Grade D. Dumping of household items had taken place at this residential area – household items and clothing were very much in evidence along the footpath. Such accumulations are likely to encourage / attract similar behaviour.

Dorset Lane: Grade D. The overall impression created along this laneway was a very poor one. It was characterised by several large black sacks, (the contents of which were strewn about) along with a mattress, and clothing items.

Buckingham Street Upper: Grade B+. In previous IBAL surveys, this had been a heavily littered / dumped upon site. This time around, things were much improved, with the on-street planters / shrubs etc looking very well. Care needs to be taken to ensure that the 'long-lie' litter in the various basements doesn't build up / attract further litter.

Aldborough Place: Grade B. Much improved compared to recent IBAL surveys. Much of the litter this time around was at the base of the fencing, mostly alcohol bottles and food related items. Graffiti was very much a feature on several surfaces.

Commons Street: Grade C. A poor impression was created along this street. The most obvious litter items were sweet wrappers, with lower levels of mineral cans, fast-food wrappers, plastic bottles and coffee cups. Dog fouling and cigarette butts were also present. The majority of the above was on the side of the road with the apartments / at the base of the playing pitch perimeter.

Crinian Strand and Environs: Grade C+. The residential area of Crinian Strand has rarely been anything but seriously / heavily littered over the last number of years. It continues to be not just littered but dumped upon.

Ballybough Road: Grade B. There was a nice use of on-street planters along Ballybough Road, and overall presentation was good. Main litter items were sweet wrappers, plastic wrapping, chewing gum and cigarette butts, on the kerbs and in the parking spaces.

Summerhill Parade: Grade B. Plastic bags of rubbish had been left out for collection, with wildlife on the prowl. This residential area is usually littered to some degree, with plastic bags of rubbish occasionally contributing to the problem.

Mountjoy Square – residential: Grade B+. If it wasn't for a bag of refuse being torn apart by a seagull, this would have been a top ranking site. The remainder of the site presented well.

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Dorset Street: Grade B. The litter along this road was most obvious at the corner of Dorset Street and Granby Row. With a little extra effort, this busy site could be top-ranking.

Sherrard Street: Grade C. A very poor impression was created along this residential street with heavy levels of a wide variety of food related items lining the kerbs / parking areas throughout. There was a mix of recent and 'long-lie' items.

Gardiner Street Upper: Grade B. The overall impression was generally a good one, but the site was let down by litter in a number of basements, particularly No. 3 Gardiner Street Upper. Measures have been taken at other basement sites in Dublin City to address accumulations of litter in basements – perhaps similar action could be taken here?

Bottle Bank on Alfie Byrne Road, East Road: Grade C. On first impressions, all appeared in good order, with some of the recycle units brightly painted. However, the area to the rear and grass area tell a different story.

North Circular Road: Grade B. Level of litter along North Circular Road was such that it was verging on becoming a seriously littered site. It was mostly along the kerbs / car parking areas, with much of the litter seemingly 'long-lie'.

Junction of Annesley Place and Poplar Row: Grade A. A freshly presented junction which had been heavily littered in previous IBAL surveys. Area was enhanced by nice use of 'on-street' planters. While graffiti was very much a feature in the immediate environment, there was a virtual absence of litter.

Summerhill: Grade C. Summerhill wasn't just littered but subjected to dumping, and scavenging had taken place. This was combined with a generally heavy litter presence throughout the pavements.

Portland Row: Grade B+. Overall, this site presents reasonably well. Dog fouling and plastic ties on poles were the main items, along with sweet wrappers.

Basement of former DID Electrical site: Grade D. This site wasn't just littered but significantly dumped upon, in large quantities. Where does responsibility for this site lie? This needs urgent attention.

Corner of Ossory Road and West Road: Grade C+. There was definitely evidence of attempts to address the litter / dumping situation with the erection of wooden boards to prevent dumping in the adjacent wasteground. Based on 'fresh dumping' it would seem that this site requires a little more attention to address / prevent recent issues.

Basements of 61-64 Ballybough Road: Grade C. As well as the heavy levels of a wide variety of litter the steps were broken / fencing was rusty. This, combined with the heavy levels of a wide variety of food and alcohol related litter presented poorly.

Ballybough Lane: Grade C. This site is likely to deteriorate further, if not addressed. There was a build up of casual litter and dumping, particularly at the black gate and at the base of black railings. Overall impression was a poor one.

Environs of Royal Canal - under Newcomer Bridge: Grade D. A heavily dumped upon environment which appears to be more pronounced than previous IBAL surveys. Loose litter was amongst the bags / sacks of rubbish and other miscellaneous items, including some tents. This site is the responsibility of Iarnród Éireann.

Mountjoy Square Park: Grade A. An excellent impression was created at this city centre park environment. All aspects were in very good order and it was very good with regards to litter – despite plenty of activity on day of IBAL survey – well done to all concerned.