

An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 1, 2018

Dublin City Centre: 30th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

The main shopping streets (Grafton, O'Connell and Henry Streets) presented very well, not just with regard to litter but paving, planting and street furniture. These all go a long way towards the overall impression created along these streets. St. Stephen's Green (park) was excellent with regard to litter and appeared to be a much respected and cared for environment. Another excellent site in Dublin City was the Garden of Remembrance – it was exceptionally well presented and maintained, fitting for such a memorial. During the construction of the Cross City Luas Line College Green was a building site for quite some time – with the works now complete College Green presented as a very fresh environment and was good with regard to litter. Many of the poorer ranking sites in Dublin City were in a very concentrated area – Back Lane, Engine Alley and Meath Street. The former two weren't just casually littered but had been subjected to dumping. Meath Street was heavily littered at the top of the street between Engine Alley and Thomas Street.

Lucan Road, Palmerstown Road, Con Colbert Road and St. John's Road: Grade A. The overall impression created along this route was an excellent one for anybody travelling into Dublin from a westerly direction. It was noted that St. John's Road and the approach from Chapelizod by pass were much improved on previous IBAL litter surveys.

St. Stephen's Green Park: Grade A. St. Stephen's Green park was excellent with regard to litter – despite plenty of activity on a busy summer's day. It is a welcoming environment with good visitor information signage, colourful planting and plenty of wooden seating throughout. The open style of litter bins is such that litter can be picked out by birds and there were plenty of pigeons lurking about, as evidenced by the bird fouling.

Temple Bar: Grade A. The overall presentation of this area was good with buildings, paving and cobble stoned streets well maintained. 'The Temple Bar' pub was brightly painted and had abundant floral displays, three floors high. Despite high numbers of people, there was a virtual absence of litter (bottle caps stuck between cobble stones, chewing gum and cigarette butts) throughout the area surveyed. There were a few separate incidents of graffiti and occasional street signage was poor e.g. Fownes Street Upper.

Grafton Street: Grade A. Grafton Street was an excellent site, not just with regard to litter but with overall presentation and maintenance. The paving created a very fresh impression and there were plenty of litter bins throughout. Substantial planter boxes at the top of the street added some greenery.

Moore Street: Grade A. The paving and road surface along Moore Street certainly contributed to the fresh appearance. There was a virtual absence of litter in the area surveyed. Care needs to be taken to ensure that plastic wrapping from street stalls doesn't become a litter feature.

Morning Star Avenue: Grade B. There were accumulations of litter behind railings in a corner area, a broken bin, graffiti on a bin and other litter stuffed behind electricity type box. The overall impression created along this street was generally untidy and littered. Weeds were also present.

Capel Street: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along this street which is heavily trafficked both by cars and pedestrians. Paving along the street was in good order and the overall impression was a good one.

Naas Approach Road: Grade B. While the road surface, markings and signage were in very good condition the road was somewhat untidy with regard to litter. Most of the litter was in the grass of the traffic islands and the grass verges at the side of the road. The main litter items were cans, plastic bottles and sweet wrappers.

North Road and Finglas Road: Grade B. Grass verges were well maintained and the road was fresh in appearance. The most obvious litter items were coffee cups, plastic bags, sweet papers and mineral cans. Not much effort is required for this site to get the top litter grade.

Stoneybatter and Manor Street: Grade A. This site got the top litter grade, but only just. Care needs to be taken that litter doesn't accumulate in the various empty / derelict buildings in this area. Graffiti was present on a shuttered property.

Bolton Street: Grade A. The built environment along Bolton Street was good, with new paving and road surface contributing to the fresh appearance. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

Henry Street: Grade A. A very fresh and clean impression was created along Henry Street with the paving in very good order. Large planter boxes are welcome in such a built up area. The street bins were clean and in good condition.

Chesterfield Avenue: Grade A. (main road through Phoenix Park). A fresh and tidy impression is created travelling on this long road through Phoenix Park. The road, pathways, cycle lanes, seating etc. were all excellently maintained. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Garden of Remembrance: Grade A. This was an excellent site. The recent paving, planter boxes, grass, railing, seating and overall setting were not just clear of litter but exceptionally well presented and maintained – as is fitting for any memorial. The water feature was spotless.

Church Street: Grade B. As well as heavy levels of cigarette butts there were lower levels of sweet papers, coffee cups and other food related items. Weeds were present at the base of the low red brick wall, beneath black railings.

College Green: Grade A. With the Luas Cross City works completed in late December 2017 this is the first time that in quite a while that the area hasn't been a building site. The overall environment is now very freshly presented with paving, road surface and signage (and Luas tracks) in very good condition. College Green was very good with regard to litter.

Smithfield: Grade B. The streetscape and furnishings were in very good condition in Smithfield e.g. cobble stones, fresh paving, bins, planter boxes etc. With a little extra effort this could be a top ranking site – cigarette butts and some food / mineral related litter took away from an otherwise good site.

'Old Kilmainham' Road, South Circular Road: Grade A. This site got the top litter grade, but only just. Care needs to be taken at derelict / closed down sites / premises. Graffiti was a feature in a few different locations.

Thomas Street: Grade A.(from Bridgefoot Street to James Street) A good impression was created along this busy city centre street. Trees line the central median and add some welcome greenery in such a city centre environment. Many of the old buildings presented well. There was a virtual absence of litter in the area surveyed.

Wolfe Tone Quay: Grade A. A clean and tidy impression was created travelling along this very busy route. All appeared in good order with regard to litter.

Dame Street: Grade A. Dame Street was thronged with pedestrians and despite such heavy usage it scored well with regard to litter. A helpful addition for visitors are the colourful 'Dublin Town' maps on the electricity type boxes but this also has the double benefit of creating a fresh impression compared to the adjoining electricity box.

O'Connell Street: Grade A. O'Connell Street was a pristine site. There were some works taking place behind railings but there was no apparent litter associated with same. The paving, Luas line and road surface were exceptionally fresh in appearance. Even the bases of the ornamental trees were clear of litter. The colourful planting was in very good condition – the street is a credit to those responsible for same.

Kilmainham Gaol & Courthouse Environs: Grade A. The streetscape directly in front of the building was excellent. Paving, bins, bollards, signage etc were all in very good condition and created a very positive impression.

Guinness Storehouse: Grade A. The built environment was in very good order and the wide paving outside the Storehouse created a lovely sense of space. There was a virtual absence of litter in the area surveyed.

Back Lane: Grade D. Back Lane had been subjected to a variety of dumping, activities. e.g. a large grey sofa; plastic bags of rubbish hanging from black railings. Much of the litter along Back Lane was alcohol related. Weeds and graffiti were also a feature. Street signage was practically illegible.

Engine Alley: Grade D. This is a small stretch of laneway between Swift's Alley and Meath Street. The area wasn't just littered but subject to dumping, right beneath a 'No Dumping' sign on the rear wall of the Thomas Street Market. There was graffiti on the ESB Box at foot level, on the wall, on a red surface and a shiny marble surface. The overall impression created here was a very poor one.

Meath Street: Grade C. Meath Street was a mixed site as the bottom of the street was cleaner than the top of the street. The litter was most pronounced between the junction of Engine Alley and Thomas Street. There were several vacant and some derelict sites, some presented poorly. There were heavy levels of a wide variety of litter with cigarette butts, coffee cups, plastic bottles and cans the most pronounced items. Graffiti was widespread throughout the length of the street.