

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

Waterford City Centre: 10th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed.

Again Ireland's cleanest city, Waterford City had several top ranking sites that deserve a special mention e.g. Cathedral Square and Environs was attractively landscaped and scored very well with regard to litter; O'Connell Street looked very well with the wide paving creating a great sense of space; Waterford Train Station (Interior and Exterior) wasn't just clear of litter but great care has been taken with the presentation of same, including abundant flower planting; The People's Park was very well maintained and St. Declan's National School was spotless. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the vacant sites at 15/16 Broad Street as there was no litter directly associated with same. Thomas Street wasn't just casually littered - there was dumping e.g. furniture and electrical items.

R675 Approach Road: Grade A. A fresh and clean impression was created travelling along this route into Waterford City. Road surface and marking were in good order and there wasn't any obvious litter to be seen.

City Square Shopping Centre: Grade A. A freshly presented shopping environment which was spotless within. The pedestrian walkway to the Debenhams entrance was also generally very good with regard to litter.

Cathedral Square – Church of Ireland: Grade A. This is a very attractively landscaped city centre environment with soft planting and gravel underfoot – it was spotless throughout and all the features of the site were in excellent order.

Abandoned / vacant sites at 15 & 16 Broad Street: Grade A. The rust on the metal shutters indicated that these two adjoining properties have probably been vacant for some time. There wasn't any litter at this site so clearly a careful eye is kept on this area.

Recycle Facility at Little Patrick Street: Grade A. A clean and tidy recycle environment with the recycle units in good order.

Barronstrand: Grade B+. This is an attractively presented pedestrianised environment with very good streetscape – paving, seating, ornamental trees, picnic tables and bins were in very good order. Heavy levels of cigarette butts and lower levels of sweet papers and chewing gum took away from an otherwise very good site.

O'Connell Street: Grade A. The wide paving along this one-way shopping street contributes to a great sense of space. The paving itself was attractive and ornamental trees, bollards, bins and bicycle parking were in very good order. O'Connell Street scored very well with regard to litter.

Thomas Street: Grade C. As well as the casually discarded food and cigarette related litter there were two separate areas along Thomas Street which were in a poor state. Beside an overflowing green commercial bin there were discarded electrical items / furnishings and the contents of a black sack strewn about. There were also discarded black sacks at another doorway.

Waterford Bus Station - Exterior: Grade C. The seating area was moderately littered (mostly food related items) but behind the seated passengers is where much of the litter lay – especially very heavy accumulations of cigarette butts. Much of the litter in this area was 'long-lie', indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time.

Waterford Bus Station – Interior: Grade A. Not only was the waiting area within the bus station spotless but the floor was sparkling. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order e.g. seating, signage, bins etc..

Riverwalk and adjoining Street Level Car Parking: Grade B. An extensive riverside environment with wide pathway, and ornamental trees and street level car parking. Cigarette butts were

pronounced, with lower levels of sweet wrappers and dog fouling. There was dog fouling signage 'Have you put your Foot in it Lately – Pause and Think, Clean it Up!'.

Hanover Street: Grade A. One side of this short elegant pedestrianised street is dominated by a lovely old building (former museum). It now appears to be a café, with outdoor seating. The paving and ornamental trees also contribute to the ambience. The buildings on the opposite side of the street were quite different in appearance. There was very little litter to be seen.

Waterford Train Station (Plunkett Station) – Exterior: Grade A. Waterford Train station creates a very welcoming impression with such an abundance of colourful flower boxes. As well as lining the railings there were some 'tiered' planter boxes close to the outdoor seating. It was spotless throughout with seating, cigarette butt units, paving, railings etc. in very good condition.

Waterford Train Station – Interior: Grade A. A pristine environment with all aspects of the area surveyed in very good order e.g. seating, signage, bins etc.

R711 Ferrybank Approach Road: Grade A. This road into Waterford has scored very well in previous IBAL litter surveys and things were no different this time around. There was a complete absence of litter along this stretch of road. Paving, railings, etc. were in good order.

The People's Park: Grade A. The People's Park is an oasis in the middle of a busy city. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order – picnic tables, grass, bins, paving etc.. It presented very well with regard to litter.

St. Declan's National School: Grade A. The grounds of the school were in very good condition – lovely mature setting with plenty of trees, planting and grass. This site was spotless.

Waterford Institute of Technology – Exterior: Grade A. The paving, bins, planting and seating areas were in good condition with the bins positioned directly beside the white seating. There was a virtual absence of litter in the area surveyed.

Waterford Institute of Technology – Interior: Grade A. Opportunities for recycling were provided within the building and lush planter boxes added plenty of greenery. The floor was gleaming and the area surveyed was immaculate with regard to litter.

N25 Connecting road to Wexford: Grade A. An excellent impression was created along this road with no obvious litter to be seen.