

An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 2, 2018

Dublin City Centre: Overall 2018 result: 31st out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered.

A number of heavily littered sites prevented Dublin City Centre from retaining its Clean status from earlier in 2018. While high profile areas such as Temple Bar, Grafton St, O'Connell St, Guinness Storehouse and Dame St all got the top grade, the Iveagh Market Building on Francis Street was a litter blackspot, as was George's Hill and an area off Meath St. Mary and Liffey St were moderately littered.

Temple Bar: Grade A. Overall, Temple Bar presented well with regard to litter and general maintenance. There was a virtual absence of litter – it wasn't so much loose litter but chewing gum, which was pronounced throughout, with lower levels of cigarette butts. Fly-posting, in the form of stickers, were also obvious on poles. Some of the street signage was poor / illegible and graffiti did feature.

Smithfield Square and Market: Grade A. The broad sweep that is Smithfield presented very well. The pavements were very fresh in appearance and the cobbled area is very much a feature of this historic site. There was a virtual absence of litter in the area surveyed. Graffiti was pronounced on many separate surfaces, particularly the light features.

Navan Approach Road: Grade A. This was an excellent route in terms of presentation and litter. The road surface, signage and markings were in very good order. Colourful planting, bicycle parking, bus stops and bins were all very fresh in appearance and grass had been freshly cut.

Benburb Street: Grade B. One of the most striking features along Benburb Street was the amount of graffiti – a low wall was covered in it, as were many of the derelict / vacant buildings. The footpath was generally fine with regard to litter but some of the gateways were littered, mostly coffee cups and fast-food wrappers. The overall impression was generally untidy, despite the clean Luas line running down the centre of the street.

Blackhall Court: Grade A. This residential area was in very good order with regard to litter and general presentation. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

N3 Blanchardstown By Pass: Grade A. (from Dublin to Meath Exit). A very good road with regard to presentation and maintenance. Grass verges and hedges were in very good order, as were the road surface, signage and markings. Overall, there were no litter issues.

Chapelizod By Pass: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along the Chapelizod By Pass. A fresh and tidy impression was created when travelling along this very busy route. The hedge and grass had been recently tended.

Derelict Site at the start of Parnell Street from Capel Street approach: Grade C. This site consisted of a series of boarded up properties, single storey, and adjoining property which was a three storey building. It presents very poorly with weeds growing from the roof of the low building and heavy build up of a variety of a wide range of food related litter.

Naas Approach Road: Grade B. (from Lucan Exit to Exit 4, South bound to Limerick). There was a definite litter presence along this stretch of road. Much of the litter was on the grass verges on the passenger side – all manner of food related litter and some plastic wrapping were present.

Cuckoo Lane: Grade C. Cuckoo Lane presented poorly. Road surface was uneven, graffiti, weeds and derelict sites were a feature and there were heavy levels of food related litter throughout the street. Plastic / wrapping was caught in the high barbed wire.

O'Connell Street: Grade A. O'Connell Street has been a top ranking site in many previous IBAL litter surveys and this high grade has been maintained. The whole environment was very well

presented and maintained. Paving was particularly fresh in appearance and tree planting was in excellent condition.

Green Street: Grade B. There was a definite litter presence along Green Street. Not only was it littered but it presented poorly and lacked care.

Guinness Storehouse: Grade A. The paving and immediate environs of Guinness Storehouse was very fresh in appearance. It created an excellent impression for any visitors and the area was very well served by litter bins.

St. Stephen's Green Park: Grade A. St. Stephen's Green was an excellent site. Not only was it very well presented and maintained but there was an absence of litter throughout. There was plenty of wildlife both in the pond and beside it. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good condition e.g. seating, bins, signage etc..

Moore Lane: Grade B. Moore Lane presented quite poorly and the level of litter was such that it was verging on Grade C status. There were plenty of vacant and derelict properties (broken windows) which created a poor impression – substantial weed growth from the red brick building. Litter had been stuffed into a various orifices and the road / pavement surfaces were cracked and uneven.

Kilmainham Gaol & Environs: Grade A. This was an excellent site in terms of overall presentation and litter. The wide paving to the front of the entrance created a very good impression and the seating, bins, signage and broad streetscape all looked exceptionally fresh. Clearly this is a very well respected and maintained environment.

George's Hill: Grade D+ George's Hill wasn't just littered but subject to dumping. As well as the dumping there was persistent litter throughout.

Capel Street: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along Capel Street. The paving presented well and there was a good supply of cigarette butt units.

Mary Street: Grade B. There was a variety of food related litter to be seen along Mary Street – some of it was at the base of the bicycle parking and along the kerbs, particularly towards the Capel Street end of the road. This takes away from the freshly presented paving and litter bins.

Middle Abbey Street: Grade A. Overall, the impression created along Middle Abbey Street was a very good one with road surface and paving in good condition. Some planting is welcome in such a built up environment. The paving beneath one of the litter bins was very grimy and dirty.

Liffey Street, Upper: Grade B. A moderately littered site and this took away from an otherwise well presented environment. Chewing gum and cigarette butts were very obvious. Some floral displays created a good impression along Liffey Street, Upper. Bicycle parking bins and bollards were in good condition.

Dame Street: Grade A. Dame Street looked very well and the immediate environs of City Hall was particularly good with regard to litter. There were several incidents of graffiti on one electricity type box – perhaps it might be worth considering some Traffic Light Box Art?

College Green: Grade A. The paving looked particularly fresh outside the Bank of Ireland building. Bollards, bins, trees and most of the street signage were in very good condition – one of the old street signs at the Tourism building was very old.

Grafton Street: Grade A. The overall impression created along Grafton Street was an excellent one – road / paving surface was very fresh. Large planter boxes created a lovely effect. Grafton Street scored very well with regard to litter.

Christchurch Cathedral and Environs: Grade A. Some building works were taking place in the grounds of the Cathedral but this didn't impact in any negative way on the litter situation. The grounds were very good with regard to litter and the street immediately outside was fine.

Iveagh Market Building on Francis Street: Grade D. There were heavy accumulations of litter, mostly alcohol related behind the railings of this fine old building. It has been like this on many previous occasions.

Molyneux – Alley off Engine Alley: Grade D. (parallel to Meath Street) It wasn't just loose litter but all manner of dumping and debris which were present. Much of the dumping was behind parked cars. All of this is very apparent from the opposite side of the basketball court.