

**Ballymun: 40<sup>th</sup> out of 40 Towns / Cities surveyed. Litter Blackspot.**

Ballymun has the unwanted distinction of being the first litter blackspot in our surveys in a number of years. It is especially disappointing that sites which had been top ranking in previous surveys were littered e.g. Ballymun Town Centre & Environs and Ballymun Road. The lack of top ranking sites places Ballymun firmly at the bottom of the league. The site of 'Ballymun Shopping Centre' wasn't just littered but subject to dumping. It has had a negative impact on sites directly beside it, resulting in further poor litter grades. Due for demolition (as reported in 2018) it will be a fresh opportunity for a new environment.

**M50 Approach and Exit: Grade B+.** (from Northbound direction) Fresh litter (mostly cans, sweet papers, plastic bottles and coffee cups) took away from an otherwise well presented and maintained road environment. The grass at Ballymun Roundabout had been recently tended.

**St. Margaret's Road: Grade B.** Some parts of this road were definitely 'fresher' in appearance than others. As well as casual food related litter, nappies had been discarded on the grass in the central median. Plastic wrapping was also obvious.

**Ballymun Town Centre and Environs: Grade C.** This site has scored poorly compared to previous IBAL litter surveys. This time around there was a variety of litter outside the Ballymun Civic Centre and on the grass in front of the Axis Centre – the level of food related litter on the grass was such that the birds were having a field day.

**Shangan Road: Grade D.** This road was characterised by a very heavy litter presence throughout, in the hedges, on side lanes, and public green / grasslands. There was a constant stream along the green fencing – this stretch requires more thorough approach to cleaning. Litter was very pronounced at 'Arts Block' ESB area. The small bottle bank was in a very poor state.

**Car Park at Ballymun Shopping Centre: Grade D.** This large site is a complete 'eye-sore' right in the centre of Ballymun. There was litter throughout the pavements and car park, both 'old' and 'new' litter – indicates a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time. It was also characterised by graffiti, weeds, fly-posting and dumping.

**Ballymun Sports and Fitness: Grade C.** There was a constant stream of food related litter inside the railings, parallel to the road. This litter continued throughout. As well as plastic and glass bottles, cans, sweet papers etc. there were plenty of pizza boxes. There were no visible litter bins / litter awareness notices in the area surveyed.

**R108 Ballymun Road: Grade B+.** This main stretch of road through Ballymun was well presented with trees lining the central median and bins, railings etc. in good order. With a little extra effort it could be a top ranking site. The Bottle Bank needs attention.

**Miscellaneous Derelict Site at Car Park at Ballymun Shopping Centre: Grade D.** This wasn't just casually littered but the area behind railings has been used as a dumping ground – over a prolonged period of time.

**Balcurris Park West: Grade C.** The overall impression here was of a heavily littered residential environment. There was litter on the kerbs, pavements and in the car parking areas – a wide variety of litter was present.

**Balbutcher Lane: Grade D.** Balbutcher Lane wasn't just littered but subject to dumping, especially around the large stone 'blocks', in overgrown grass areas, behind railings.