

Galway: 17th out of 40 Towns / Cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms

The overall presentation and cleanliness of the city was much improved on previous years, with individual sites notably cleaner and only one heavily littered site. Top ranking sites which deserve a special mention include NUIG which was exceptionally well maintained and excellent with regard to litter; Canal Walk at Cathedral area which was much improved on previous IBAL litter surveys and was deserving of the top litter grade; Millennium Park, which is a lovely city centre park environment was attractively laid out and good with regard to litter. Both the Bus Eireann Station and Train Station were excellent sites for visitors. The moderately littered sites could easily be improved with a little extra care and attention. The Newcastle Road was the sole heavily littered site.

NUIG: Grade A. The very high standards of previous IBAL litter surveys have been sustained at NUIG – it was a pristine site throughout. Grounds were exceptionally well presented and maintained and all aspects of the area surveyed were in excellent condition e.g. planting, grass, bins, wooden seating, signage, flower boxes etc. It is a tribute to those who are part of the campus and to those responsible for the maintenance.

UHG (Hospital) Car Park: Grade A. The overall impression at this hospital car park was a clean and tidy one. Car park surface, markings and signage were in very good order and there was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Ashgrove Road: Grade A. There were no litter issues along this quiet residential cul-de-sac. The overall impression created here was a positive one.

Canal Walk: Grade B. (from University Road to Pedestrian Bridge). There was a notable improvement on previous IBAL litter surveys, though it was still moderately littered, with alcohol cans and coffee cups stuffed into the stone wall. Alcohol bottles and plastic bottles were also a feature along the pathway but the water was generally not littered.

Millennium Park: Grade A. This lovely city park environment was very well presented and maintained, but it is a pity about the graffiti on the bins and stone wall. Paving, wooden seating, playground area, planting, grass, signage were all in very good condition and the park was excellent with regard to litter.

Canal Walk – Cathedral area: Grade A. A marked improvement was noted at this part of the canal, most especially in the water area which had harboured heavy litter levels. This time around the area presented well. Curiously, a street bin was chained to a lamp-post.

Galway Cathedral and Environs: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter in the area immediately surrounding the Cathedral, with attractive paving around the perimeter. There was some planting, but poorly maintained planting.

Galway Court House: Grade B. With no obvious facility for the disposal of cigarette butts it would seem that one is required based on the level of butts caught in the attractive paving. Perhaps the style at Town Hall Theatre would be appropriate for such a building. Sweet wrappers were also present. The planted areas beneath the trees were 'tired' looking but not littered. With a little extra care and attention this could be a top ranking site.

Town Hall Theatre: Grade B. Another notable site in Galway City for the improvement on previous IBAL surveys. The overall impression was of a much fresher environment but still somewhat littered. As with the Court House this could easily be a top ranking site.

R864 Newcastle Road: Grade C. (between University Road and Ashgrove Road) This was by far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Galway City. On first appearance all looks reasonably good with regard to litter but on closer inspection there were heavy levels of a wide variety of litter in the planters and enclosed areas. All manner of food related litter had been deposited in the planter units, like they were a bin.

AnTaisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 1, 2019

Mercy Primary School: Grade B. The forecourt and entrance to the school were generally clean and tidy. Fast-food wrappers and sweet papers were caught at the base of the railings and just inside the railings. The remainder of the school environment appeared well maintained with some planter boxes and greenery along the front wall.

St. Francis Street: Grade A. A freshly presented city centre street with many of the old buildings looking freshly painted. It was well presented and maintained with a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Eyre Square: Grade B. An excellent presented and maintained city centre space. Seating, paving, grass, tree planting, colourful flower beds etc were all in very good condition. Some casually discarded food related litter (remnants of a picnic, perhaps) took away from an otherwise exceptionally good site.

Bus Eireann - Galway Bus Station: Grade A. The entrance area and immediate environs created a fresh impression for anybody arriving to Galway City by bus. Bins, seating, paving, railings were very fresh in appearance and the interior was spotless.

Galway Train Station: Grade A. The very high standards of previous IBAL surveys have been sustained at Galway Train Station. All aspects were very freshly presented and maintained. It was sparkling throughout and absolutely spotless. Clearly, the station staff are very attentive.

Eyre Square Shopping Centre: Grade A. This was an excellent site with regard to litter – there was a complete absence of litter throughout. The pedestrian approach was attractively paved and in very good order.

Shop Street: Grade A. Shop Street was very good with regard to litter. The attractive paving is a lovely feature and a boarded up / derelict building has been freshened up with a brightly coloured mural – this very much improves the overall presentation of what could otherwise be an ‘eye-sore’.

Salthill Promenade: Grade B. Plenty of dog fouling notices e.g. subtle dog fouling notice on the ground ‘Pick Up or Pay Up’ with dog illustration and ‘Love Your Dog Respect Your City, Bag It, Bin It’ notice on large wooden bin. Much of the promenade environment presented well with bins, paving, seating etc. in very good order. It was let down by a variety of food related litter and some dog fouling. The provision of the opportunity to separate waste is a great addition to a popular location.

Salthill Park: Grade B. A lovely feature at this park environment was the colourful display of flowers. It was a well presented and maintained environment but let down by plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers, sweet papers and dog fouling, most notably at the base of the shrubbery along a perimeter wall.

Fairhill Road, Lower: Grade A. The public green area in this residential area was well tended and neat. Individual properties were well kept with some attractive front gardens. It was excellent with regard to litter.

St. Nicholas’ National School: Grade A. (St Dominick’s Road) The area visible from the road was very clean and tidy environment. There were no visible litter issues within the grounds of the school or directly outside.

St. Dominick’s Avenue: Grade A. The paving along this residential road created a very fresh impression. Clearly some of the residents are very proud of their area as great care has been taken with the presentation of garden / green spaces. It was excellent with regard to litter.

Coolough Approach Road: Grade A. (from Dyke Road to Cul de Loch Village) An exceptionally clean and fresh road with the surface, markings, signage and footpaths in very good order. A positive first impression of Galway City was created along this road.

M6 Galway – Ballinasloe Link Road: Grade B. It wasn’t just the casual litter which brought down the litter grade along this route but the plastic wrap was the main culprit.