

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

Galway Inner City - Ballybane: Joint 29th out of 40 Towns / Cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

A noticeable improvement at Ballybane with a couple of sites markedly better than previous surveys (e.g. Ballybane Industrial Estate). While little has been done to enhance the overall presentation of 'Library' at Ballybane there were no litter issues in the immediate vicinity. Ballybane Village was moderately littered with an overall impression of an unkempt environment. East United Sports Ground and Clothes Bank was mostly very good but was brought down by the black sacks at the base of the Clothes Bank.

Castlepark Road: Grade B. The overall presentation of this road was a positive one with road surface, path and grass in good condition. Grass had recently been cut and there was good use of floral displays. It was let down by loose litter on the kerbs. All of the litter was food related e.g. coffee cups, plastic bottles, cans and sweet papers.

East United Sports Ground and Clothes Bank: Grade C+. The grounds and immediate environs were in very good order and clear of litter. It was the East United Clothes Bank which brought down the overall litter grade – at least half a dozen black sacks were left on the ground in the immediate vicinity.

Ballybane Shopping Centre: Grade A. The car park area was freshly presented with surface, markings and signage in very good condition. Overall, there was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Ballybane Industrial Estate: Grade B. This is an extensive site. It got a moderately littered grade but care needs to be taken to ensure that it doesn't drop to a seriously littered site. The interconnecting roads were generally good but some areas were littered, e.g. beneath a series of signs and at base of low lying shrubbery. It was much improved on the last survey.

N17 / Tuam Road: Grade A. A clean and tidy impression was created along this route. The grass verges and hedges were well attended. Overall, it was a very good site.

Ballybane Library & Environs: Grade A. The Library and immediate environs were excellent with regard to litter. The library building was very fresh in appearance.

Ballybane Village: Grade B. A wide variety of food related litter and cigarette butts were present at this site. The overall impression was of an unkempt environment e.g. planters boxes presented poorly. Chewing gum was very pronounced throughout the area surveyed.

Ballybane Road: Grade B+. This site just missed getting the top litter grade. It is a freshly presented environment and very well attended. Plastic bottles, cans and sweet papers took away from an otherwise very good environment.

Glasán – GMIT Village: Grade A. The top ranking grade of previous IBAL litter surveys have been sustained at the student accommodation, Glasán. It was spotless throughout and clearly a very well respected environment. Planted areas, grass, bollards, paving etc. were all in excellent condition – a top ranking site throughout.

Recycle Centre at Ballybane Shopping Centre: Grade B. On first impression this recycle centre appeared in reasonable order. Closer inspection revealed items had been stuffed beneath and behind the recycle units, much of it 'old' litter. A more thorough approach to the cleaning of the facility could easily address this.