

An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 1, 2020

Ranelagh: Joint 19th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

A good result, with half of the sites surveyed in Ranelagh receiving the top litter grade and just one heavily littered site. Top ranking sites included Ranelagh LUAS, Ranelagh Gardens and RMDS - Ranelagh Multi-Denominational School – they were not just good with regard to litter but very well presented and maintained. There was a definite litter presence along the Main Street, mostly food and cigarette related litter. By far the most heavily littered site was the Grand Canal at Grand Parade – it wasn't just casually littered but large items had been dumped within the water. A general observation about Ranelagh was that graffiti was very much a feature at many of the sites surveyed.

Ranelagh LUAS: Grade A. An exceptionally clean and well presented environment. All aspects of the area surveyed were in excellent condition e.g. seating, bins, ticket machines, signage etc. It was noted that there was a smell of urine in the stairwell.

Charleston Road (approach to Ranelagh from Rathmines): Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along this busy route leading to Ranelagh. Graffiti was present on many different surfaces. There were some boarded up properties, some of which were in better condition than others – care needs to be taken to ensure that they don't become a magnet for litter.

Charleston Avenue: Grade B+. Much of this short residential cul-de-sac was fine with regard to litter but it was impossible to ignore the loose food related items at the beginning of the road and the plastic matting at the end, beside the last house on the right.

R117 Ranelagh Road from Grand Canal: Grade B. This road was mixed in terms of litter. Some stretches were very good, others less so. As well as the loose litter items (a wide variety of food related litter, dog fouling and cigarette butts) there was a cardboard box with crockery and other bits and pieces on the pavement and polystyrene stuffed behind an ESB type box, beneath the very large advertising board.

Sandford Road Approach: Grade B+. Much of this road was clear of litter but there were some isolated pockets which brought down the overall litter grade e.g. recessed area close to 'Welcome to Ranelagh' signage, some clothing / bedding outside a house. The boarded up 'Sandford Stores' presents poorly. There were many incidents of graffiti along Sandford Road.

RMDS (Ranelagh Multi Denominational School): Grade A. An excellent environment in terms of presentation and maintenance. There was some lovely planting at the entrance.

Ranelagh Gardens: Grade A. An oasis of calm, right in the middle of Ranelagh, this small park was very good with regard to litter. All aspects of the area surveyed were in excellent condition e.g. seating, bins, playground etc. Again, graffiti was a feature on many surfaces, including the visitor information notice and signage. Care needs to be taken that litter doesn't become an issue at the entrance to the park close to the Luas stop.

Main Street: Grade B. On first impression the Main Street appeared generally clear of litter. Closer inspection revealed that a variety of food related litter items made their way to the kerb. One area with noticeable accumulations was the recessed premises - 'Bamboo Chinese'. If not addressed an area like this can quickly deteriorate. On a repeat visit to Ranelagh it would seem that the Bamboo Chinese had closed down and was again littered. Cigarette butts were also pronounced throughout.

Grand Canal at Grand Parade: Grade C. This was by far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Ranelagh. There were heavy levels of a wide variety of litter items, as well as larger items e.g. heavy duty plastic.

Dartmouth Square: Grade A. The park and surrounding houses were completely clear of litter. Clearly it is a very well respected and cared for environment.