

Dublin City Centre: 29th out of 37 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered.

A slight improvement in Dublin, with the main shopping streets scoring particularly well e.g., Grafton Street, O'Connell Street, Henry Street and Moore Street, all of which got the top litter grade. Other top-ranking sites included St. Stephen's Green Park, Liffey Boardwalk at Ormond Quay, Grattan Bridge and Christchurch Cathedral grounds – what sets these, and other top-ranking sites apart is not just the lack of litter but the presentation and maintenance of same. The poor ranking sites didn't get into this state overnight e.g., Iveagh Market – Francis Street, Miscellaneous Site at Lamb Lane and Dean Swifts Square, Derelict site at corner of Meeting House Lane and Mary's Abbey, Bottle Bank at Parking area at corner of Michan's Street and Chancery Street – these weren't just heavily littered / subject to dumping but presented very poorly in terms of graffiti, fly posting, weeds etc.

A notable initiative to be rolled out last October is 'Dublin Circle City' – a simple solution for the separation and recycling of plastic bottles / aluminium cans, with yellow bins, positioned beside regular street. These were present in Grafton Street and Henry Street.

Grafton Street: Grade A. The temporary toilet facilities at the top of Grafton Street present well and are very well camouflaged. A new initiative since last IBAL survey is the roll out of 'Dublin is a Circle City' and these yellow bins were frequently placed beside regular street bins along Grafton Street. It was exceptionally freshly presented and maintained with a complete absence of litter throughout. The paving was in excellent condition and the planter boxes looked very well.

St. Stephen's Green Park: Grade A. A wonderful park environment which was devoid of all litter. It has been very well respected and maintained. Seating, bins, signage, sculptures, items of historical interest were all very well presented.

Iveagh Market – Francis Street: Grade D. The area behind the blue railings has been used as a dumping ground for drinking gatherings. Huge numbers of alcohol cans and bottles had gathered amongst piles of other debris.

Liffey Boardwalk at Ormond Quay: Grade A. An excellent riverside environment which was very much deserving of the top litter grade. Boardwalk, planter boxes, seating, bins etc. were in very good order. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

Miscellaneous Site at Lamb Lane and Dean Swifts Square: Grade D. There must be thousands of beer cans and other items of alcohol related litter in the basement of this property – it has been highlighted in previous IBAL litter surveys. The immediate environs also presented poorly. Where does responsibility for this site lie?

Henry Street / Mary Street: Grade A. The fly-posing on an electricity type box presents poorly in an otherwise very well presented and maintained shopping environment. It was excellent with regard to litter and the road surface looked very fresh and clean.

Hal'penny Bridge: Grade A. This site got the top litter grade, but only just. Chewing gum was very pronounced with lower levels of cigarette butts.

College Green: Grade A. There were no litter issues of note at this busy city centre environment. The 'College Green' signage at the tourism building was practically illegible due to missing / faded letters and the 'yellow box' in front of Bank of Ireland / Trinity was wearing away.

Capel Street: Grade A. There overall impression crated along this busy street was a virtual absence of litter. Street bins and pavement were in good order.

Derelict site at corner of Meeting House Lane and Mary's Abbey: Grade D. Not only was this building an eye-sore in terms of the levels of graffiti, but a black sack and alcohol related litter were strewn about. Where does responsibility for this site lie?

An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 2, 2020

Father Matthew Square (D7): Grade A. This city centre residential environment has been very well presented and maintained. Tree planting, paving and adjacent small park were in good order. It was excellent with regard to litter.

Bottle Bank at Parking area at corner of Michan's Street and Chancery Street: Grade D. This facility wasn't just littered but subject to vandalism and dumping. The bottle units were damaged and covered in graffiti. The facility and immediate environs presented very very poorly.

Navan Road approach: Grade A. This route towards Dublin created an excellent impression for any visitors to the city. It was a tidy and well maintained site. Minor chewing gum prevailed at traffic lights but otherwise, very good with regard to litter.

Grattan Bridge: Grade A. An attractively presented environment with paving, seating, planter boxes, bin, signage etc. in excellent order. The 'olde' style lamps are a lovely feature. There was a complete absence of litter at this site.

St John's Road approach: Grade B+. A well presented route but let down by food related litter (e.g. plastic bottles, cans, sweet papers) close to the train station and at the bus stop opposite the station. Road surface, markings and signage were in good order.

Temple Bar: Grade B+. It was very small pieces of litter (bottle tops, cigarette butts and chewing gum) which prevented an otherwise well presented environment from getting the top litter grade. Temple Bar Square was very freshly presented with paving and tree planting in good order. Some of the street signage of adjoining side street was so worn away that it was completely illegible (e.g., Cope Street).

Dublinia at St. Michael's Hill entrance: Grade C+. Much of the litter was trapped beneath but also on top of grille, in and around the iron steps – while litter levels were high it could easily be addressed as the remainder of the immediate environs was in good order.

Westmoreland Street: Grade B+. A well presented city centre environment but let down by food related litter. The overflowing 'Big Belly' bins is well on its way to further contributing to the litter presence.

Christchurch Cathedral Grounds: Grade A. An immaculate site, in terms of litter. The grounds were very well maintained with hedges and grass areas in good order. The area immediately outside the grounds was also spotless.

Parnell Street: Grade B+. Paving, street bins, ornamental trees etc. were in very good order. Food related litter e.g., plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers and sweet papers, took away from an otherwise well-presented environment.

New Street North (D7): Grade D. The contents of several plastic bags / sacks had been ripped open and were strewn about – these weren't just official recycle bags but domestic rubbish.

Parnell Square West: Grade C. As well as the heavy levels of litter in some basements there were black sacks and notable litter outside a black door, at street level.

O'Connell Street, Upper and Lower: Grade A. O'Connell Street presented very well both regard to overall streetscape and litter. The paving, ornamental trees, signage etc. were in very good order – it was exceptionally fresh in appearance.

Moore Street: Grade A. Moore Street has come a long way from early days of inclusion in IBAL litter survey. This time around it presented well and was very good with regard to litter. It was noted that the areas surrounding the stalls, were clear of litter and tidily maintained – this is a noticeable improvement from a number of years ago.

O'Connell Bridge: Grade B+. Cigarette butts and chewing gum took away from what was an otherwise very well presented and maintained environment. Street bins and blue planter boxes were in very good order.