

Waterford City Centre: 8th out of 37 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

Covid has not impacted on the cleanliness of our cleanest city, Waterford. Some sites are consistently top ranking, such as Plunkett / Waterford Train Station, Bus Eireann Bus Station along the Quays, River Walk and Medieval Quarter – these deserve special mention as this requires on-going effort and attention. The ‘Waterford Walls’ initiative is a wonderfully creative way to ‘take the bare look off’ walls / buildings which might otherwise present very poorly. Barronstrand / Broad Street were beautifully presented and exceptionally well served by not just regular litter bins but also bins specifically to accommodate ‘Festival Litter’. By far the most heavily littered area was a litter blackspot on the Dunmore Rd – it was noted in the previous survey and has since deteriorated further.

Williamstown Centre: Grade A. A mixed use environment with a variety of facilities, including credit union / gym / creche etc. / playground / grass area. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout this extensive area, but care needs to be taken that fast food related litter doesn't begin to build up close the fast-food outlet.

Dock Road Approach: Grade B. The overall impression, when driving, was of a route which was very good with regard to litter. On walking the same route, smaller items were visible e.g., dog fouling and some food related litter. A black sack had been discarded in a recessed area on the left side and it was impossible to ignore the cans / plastic bottles which lay on the riverside of the road by the bridge.

Medieval Quarter: Grade A. Always a top-ranking site, things were no different this time around. It wasn't just a litter free site but the whole presentation was excellent e.g., paving, items of historic interest, seating, planting etc. There is clearly great pride of the city's heritage and it is obvious that this is a very well respected environment.

Car Park at Woodies / Lidl, Cork Road: Grade B+. An extensive stretch of car park, the majority of which was clear of litter. However, it was impossible to ignore the alcohol related litter (bottles / cans / cardboard packaging) at the base of the low-lying shrubbery at the entrance from Cork Road and some loose fast-food packaging in the car park proper.

WIT Cork Road: Grade A. All aspects of the campus were in very good order and excellent with regard to litter. There were two bins prominently displayed at the building entrances, giving a strong message about disposal of litter.

IDA Waterford: Grade A. A vast industrial complex which scored very well with regard to litter. The individual premises were in good order with Bausch and Lomb deserving special mention for the attractive landscaping and planting. The interconnecting roadways / pathways throughout the estate were clear of litter.

River Walk from Wallace Memorial to end of pathway: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout this attractively presented riverside environment. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order e.g., raised area, sculpture, marine features, visitor information notices etc.

City Square Shopping Centre Grade A. All the entrances (and areas directly outside) plus the interior of the shopping centre were excellent with regard to litter. It was a very freshly presented shopping environment, the interior was gleaming.

The Mall: Grade A. Both sides of this road presented very well with paving, planting, and many plaques and visitor information notices. Some lovely old buildings presented very well and newer buildings e.g., Waterford Crystal was exceptionally freshly presented.

Area behind red railing on Michael Street: Grade B. Certainly, this site didn't present as poorly as last IBAL survey when it was a seriously littered site. A variety of Christmas decorations alleviated the air of neglect, but it was still littered within - as well as some casual litter there were some miscellaneous wooden items.

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

O'Connell Street: Grade A. A long stretch of road, much of which has been enhanced by attractive paving / artwork / etc. This particular part of the road is a real creative / historic hub where there is clearly great pride and plenty of 'Waterford Walls' artwork. All aspects of this stretch of road were very well presented and it was excellent with regard to litter.

Butler Community Centre: Grade A. A very freshly presented environment with grounds in good order and no visible litter issues.

People's Park: Grade A. A superb site! This park environment is beautifully presented and maintained with a variety of amenities within, all of which were in very good order e.g., café with outdoor seating, boules, playground, skateboard park, PE equipment, benches etc. A credit to the park users and those responsible for the maintenance of same. It was excellent with regard to litter.

Bus Eireann Bus Station - the Quays: Grade A. An exceptionally clean and well presented environment. There is no doubt that 'litter' is taken very seriously by the copious number of 'anti litter' notices throughout this small environment.. Attractive low-lying planting is lovely feature!'

'Bring Centre' at The Glen: Grade B. There was some improvement compared to IBAL Survey 1, 2020 when this was quite a poor site. There was a plastic bag of cans / recyclable materials at the base of the units, none of which were full / overflowing. The remainder of the facility was fine with regard to litter.

Plunkett / Waterford Train Station: Grade A. As with many previous IBAL visits this was an excellent site with regard to litter and overall presentation. The 'No Smoking' signage painted on the ground directly outside the station entrance appears to be having the desired effect as there were no obvious cigarette butts throughout the area surveyed. Attractive planting / historical notices / visitor information etc. were all in very good order - a credit to the station staff and users of same.

Bridge Street: Grade B+. The attractive paving towards the bottom of the street was clear of litter but it was impossible to ignore the food related items in the shrubbery on the left side as one went up the street - all food related items and some items appeared to be household waste e.g., food tins.

Barronstrand / Broad Street: Grade A. The streetscape was excellent with lovely paving and features throughout e.g., bicycle parking, seating, etc. It was exceptionally freshly presented and maintained, buzzing with Christmas market / Christmas Fair. Despite plenty of activity it was excellent with regard to litter - plenty of street bins throughout the area surveyed, including bins for 'Festival Litter' beside every regular street bin.

R448 Newrath Approach: Grade A. A spotless route with a complete absence of litter throughout. The built environment was in good order ie. road infrastructure. This road created a very positive first impression of Waterford City and this high standard was sustained for a very high number of the remaining sites surveyed.

'Bring Centre' outside Bus Eireann Depot, Dock Road: Grade A. A much improved environment (compared to a couple of years ago) which was very much deserving of the top litter grade. The signage relating to the use of the facility was clear / legible and the recycle units were in good condition, with none of them full / overflowing. On a separate note, the shrubbery area outside the Bus Eireann Depot was littered - where does responsibility for the cleaning of this lie?

Miscellaneous site – signage indicates former premises of 'Woodpecker', Dunmore Rd: Grade D. This was by far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Waterford City. Located on the left side coming from the city in the direction of the hospital. Noted in IBAL survey 1, 2020 there has been a deterioration at this site. As well as casual litter there were larger items e.g., wood and plastic and general debris. This area needs attention.

Bring Centre at Tesco, Williamstown, Ardkeen: Grade C+ . There were some bags of rubbish (ripped open, showing they were not recyclable items) and items stuffed between / beneath the recycle units. Also, items in the shrubbery immediately to the rear of the newspaper units. Bottle / jar caps and lids were strewn on the ground.

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

L1023 from Grantstown Village to Farronshannon Roundabout: Grade A. There were no litter issues along this route. Road surface, signage and markings were in good order. An area on the left coming towards 'Farronshannon Roundabout' was 'Managed for Wildlife'.

Merchant's Quay Long Stay Car Park: Grade A. A freshly presented street level car park with car park surface, markings and signage in very good order. It was excellent with regard to litter.

Kilkenny – Waterford Link Road: Grade A. Both directions between Kilkenny and Waterford were excellent with a complete absence of litter and a very fresh appearance. All aspects of the route were in very good order e.g., road surface, markings, signage and central median.