

An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 1, 2021

North Inner-City Dublin: 40th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Litter Blackspot.

The lack of clean sites– only 2 out of 25 – was striking and helped make this among the worst results of any area since the establishment of the IBAL League 19 years ago. What's more, nearly 70% of sites were heavily littered or worse, among them several that had been highlighted in previous surveys. Overall, the number of litter blackspots in the area has doubled year on year. Some of the very bad sites included Rutland Street Lower / Rutland Row, Sean O'Casey Avenue, Aldborough Place, Sheriff Street Lower (both the residential stretch and the stretch leading to Amiens Street), the Canal at Spencer Dock and the Canal at Charleville and Railway Street. Great Clarence St and the Dock at Custom House IFSC were the only clean sites.

Lower Gardiner Street: Grade C. This busy road was characterised by a steady presence of a wide variety of litter, with accumulations in some locations. There was a mix of food and alcohol related litter, face masks, dog fouling and cigarette butts.

Sean O'Casey Avenue: Grade D. Very heavy levels of all manner of litter were found throughout this residential area – on the kerbs, in hedges, in people's gardens, in play areas etc.

Railway Street: Grade D. Some walls and street bollards were brightly painted. This wasn't enough to lift Railway Street. Domestic dumping had taken place. There were the remnants of various fires in the former play area.

Sheriff Street Lower - residential: Grade D+ (from Spencer Dock to Commons Street) The residential stretch of Sheriff Street was littered, but it was the dumping behind the railings of the boarded up red brick building which really brought down the litter grade. It didn't get into this state overnight. There was litter behind the railings of ESB facility at corner of Sheriff Street and Commons Street.

North Circular Road: Grade C. (from Dorset Street to Summerhill Parade). The litter and dumping problem persist at North Circular Road. It wasn't just confined to casual litter but other larger items e.g., wooden pallet, petrol canister, clothing, construction materials and other miscellaneous items. There was a mix of 'long-lie' and recent litter, on the kerbs, in parking areas and individual driveways.

Rutland Street Lower / Rutland Row: Grade D. This site was characterised by persistent litter, combined with dumping, especially noticeable at Rutland Row.

Summerhill Parade: Grade B. There was a combination of food and alcohol related litter, combined with dog fouling and significant accumulation of cigarette butts along Summerhill Parade. It was a mix of 'long-lie' and recent litter, on the pavements, kerbs and parking areas.

Ballybough Road: Grade D+. An interesting initiative noted along Ballybough Road was the signage on the flower box indicating 'Free Dog Foul Bags available in all local shops Please Clean up after your Dog'. As well as litter and bags of rubbish along the road, there were heavy accumulations of a wide variety of litter in the basements of some properties.

Buckingham Street Upper: Grade C. As well as the black sacks of domestic rubbish placed beside the black street bin, there was notable discarding of items along the steps / behind the black railings / in the basement of residential properties.

Canal Dock at Ossary Road / North Strand: Grade C. There were heavy levels of alcohol cans, plastic bags, mineral cans and sweet wrappers in the water. Much of it was 'long-lie'.

Railway Line at North Strand / Ossary: Grade B. The pedestrian part of the bridge has been brightly painted and looks very well. Loose litter items included heavy levels of cans (both alcohol and mineral), alcohol bottles and sweet papers.

Sheriff Street Lower: Grade D+ (from Amiens Street to Commons Street) The street level litter was minimal, but it was the build up of litter behind railings e.g., ESB site and other premises which brought down the litter grade.

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Commons Street: Grade C. Commons Street was a street of two tales. The left side, coming from the quays, was freshly presented and very good with regard to litter. The right side, coming from the quays had a wide variety of food and alcohol related litter, dog fouling and cigarette butts, particularly behind the railings of the apartments.

Sheriff Street Youth Club: Grade C+. There was a modicum of an improvement at this site and yet there were still significant levels of litter in the immediate area surrounding Sheriff Street Youth Club. The majority of it was food related and cigarette butts, with lower levels of alcohol cans.

Canal at Spencer Dock: Grade D+. The built environment was well presented and maintained e.g., grass area, colourful planting, seating, bins etc. As well as the heavy levels of a wide variety of litter within the water, larger items included bicycles, railings and industrial rubbish.

Bring Centre on East Road: Grade B. The bin units presented poorly, peeling paint and widespread graffiti. Items had been left at the base and between the units.

Crinian Strand: Grade B. This residential area was somewhat improved on previous IBAL visits, but that was from a very low base. This time around there were just loose litter items and not the discarding of rubbish that was previous in evidence.

Spring Garden Street: Grade B. With a little extra effort, particularly by the smokers, this site could be top ranking. Face-masks and sweet wrappers were also present.

Great Clarence Street: Grade A. The overall impression at this residential area was a good one with regard to litter.

Canal Walk at Charleville Mall: Grade D. The pathways were clear, but it was the litter in the canal which brought down the litter grade. Heavy levels of food and alcohol related items had been discarded.

Aldborough Place: Grade D. The pavement was littered but it was the dumping behind the fencing which created such a poor impression at Aldborough Place. The play / multi use facility was littered. Graffiti was widespread - on the ESB box, a black door etc...

Sean McDermott Street: Grade D. The basements of various premises had large accumulations of a wide variety of alcohol and food related litter. Many of these buildings were close to the swimming pool.

Dock at Custom House IFSC: Grade A. This site has seen a huge improvement. The dry dock had been heavily littered on several occasions in previous IBAL litter surveys. The surrounding environment is particularly well presented and maintained e.g., railings, street bins, seating, paving, tree planting etc.

North Strand: Grade B. (at St. Brigid's Avenue and Nottingham Street). A somewhat improved site compared to IBAL 2020 visit. Most of the litter at this site was food related and recently dropped. Graffiti was very much a feature on several separate surfaces.

Miscellaneous site at Ossory Road Junction of East Wall at West Road: Grade D. Sites don't get into this state overnight. Black sacks of rubbish and other miscellaneous items had been abandoned, along with piles and piles of accumulations of litter. The 'CCTV No Dumping' signage was covered in graffiti.