

**Waterford City Centre: 11<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.**

In quite a dire survey for most urban centres, Waterford City has managed to improve slightly. A general comment about the presence of the Waterford Walls throughout the city – very much a feature and used to great effect. Some consistently top-ranking deserve a special mention e.g. People's Park (a wonderful resource which is clearly very much respected by the users), Plunkett Train Station (plenty of historical and tourist information, combined with abundant flower arrangements); the Triangle / Medieval Quarter looked very well, with one attraction seamlessly flowing to the next. A newly included site was Waterford Nature Park / Kilbarry Park (Tramore Road), a beautiful environment, tucked away and very difficult to locate for any visitors. A Miscellaneous site – Woodpecker – highlighted in previous surveys was by far the most heavily littered site surveyed. Things have deteriorated even further since last IBAL visit. Another poor site was a Miscellaneous Site at the bottom of Dock Road, just over the Bridge – heavy accumulations of alcohol and food related items had gathered both behind the fence area and outside.

**R448 Approach, Newrath direction: Grade B+.** This road just missed getting the top litter grade. The overall presentation was fine and closer to the town there was some wonderful and abundant flower boxes. Food related items, on both sides of the road took away from an otherwise good site.

**Bring Centre at Ferrybank: Grade A.** The layout of this facility was changed a little while ago and it seems to be working as this facility was very good with regard to litter over the last few visits. Prior to this there had been some litter / dumping issues.

**Bilberry Approach: Grade B.** (from direction of start of Greenway) The overall impression created along this route was a somewhat littered one. There were stretches which were fine and others, not so fine, e.g., recessed areas at entrances to 'site for sale' on the left coming in towards the city and an area to the right, closer to the city had a discarded shopping trolley and children's toys.

**Miscellaneous site – Woodpecker: Grade D+.** (R683 close to Circle K). This site was highlighted in IBAL visits 2019 and 2020 – there has been a further deterioration since then. It wasn't just casually littered but subject to the discarding of a variety of miscellaneous items, much of it building related e.g., pieces of wood, toilet seat, tarpaulin, builders' rubble. This site needs urgent attention or else it will become a dumping ground for one and all.

**Car Park at Aldi, Ardkeen: Grade A.** This was an exceptionally freshly presented and maintained environment. It was spotless throughout.

**Bring Centre at Tesco, Williamstown, Ardkeen: Grade A.** A much improved site on IBAL 2020 visit. This time around there were no dumping issues and the overall presentation and maintenance of the facility as in good order.

**People's Park: Grade A.** The high standards of many previous IBAL surveys have been maintained at this wonderful park environment. It was excellent with regard to litter. The tea rooms were freshly painted, replete with historical signage at the entrance. All aspects of the park environment were in very good condition e.g., seating, picnic tables, visitor information notices, playgrounds, skate-park, boules etc. An area within the rose-garden was 'Managed for Wildlife' and maintained appropriately.

**Waterford Courthouse: Grade A.** The grounds of the courthouse were in excellent order, with a complete absence of litter throughout. Lovely paving within the grounds.

**Pay & Display Car Park opposite People's Park (Newtown Road): Grade C+.** There was no name at this car park or even on a car park ticket. However, there was plenty of signage throughout indicating pay and display element. Somebody is claiming an income for parking but who is responsible for the cleaning? The main car park surface was OK with regard to litter, but further inspection revealed heavy levels of a wide variety of litter lining the perimeter and accumulations at the top right-hand corner, beneath one of the pay and display machines. There were no litter awareness notices or bins.

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

**R683 Passage East Approach Road: Grade A.** A clean and tidy impression was created along this road. All aspects of the area surveyed were in good order e.g., road surface, signage, markings, grass / planting etc.

**Plunkett Train Station - Exterior: Grade A.** Plunkett Train Station has been a top-ranking site for many years – things were no different this time around. The no smoking symbol painted on the ground outside the entrance is clearly working as there was a complete absence of butts. Arriving passengers are greeted by plenty of visitor / historical information and an abundance of colourful planting.

**Dock Road (Ferrybank) Approach: Grade A.** There were no litter issues of note along this functional route. Clearly a careful eye is kept on abandoned / former properties (e.g., former petrol station and terraced houses on the left) as there was no litter directly associated with them.

**Miscellaneous site at junction of Dock Road and Edmund Rice Bridge: Grade C.** There were significant accumulations of food and alcohol related litter at this corner site, diagonally opposite Plunkett Train Station. Who is responsible for this site while there is a planning application notice on display? It presents poorly and will only attract further items if not addressed.

**Bus Eireann Bus Station: Grade A.** An excellent site in terms of presentation and litter. While there were plenty of litter awareness notices, it is one of the few places which displays 'cigarette butt disposal' notices. Planting at the entrance looked well.

**Riverwalk along the Quays: Grade A.** All aspects of this riverside environment were in very good order e.g., paving, planting, life-belts, seating, street bins, signage, tree planting etc. and there was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

**The Mall: Grade A.** This wide stretch of roadway wasn't just good with regard to litter, but great care has been taken with the overall presentation. As well as colourful planting, there were some excellent historical information notices, combined with wonderful 3D map features. New bicycle parking looked great.

**Triangle / Medieval Quarter: Grade A.** There is clearly great pride in this area, deservedly so. Comprising many different elements (Reginald's Tower, Silver Museum, Medieval Museum, Royal Theatre, Cathedral and park space), it has been attractively laid out with one attraction seamlessly leading to the next, culminating in a lovely garden space, replete with sculptures. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

**Broad Street / Barronstrand: Grade A.** Despite plenty of 'outdoor dining' / 'pop up cafes' there was no litter directly associated with them in this busy pedestrianised shopping area. Paving, seating, street bins, bicycle parking, sculpture and ornamental trees all presented very well. Regular street bins have been supplemented by extra bins, and this seems to be working satisfactorily as this site was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

**Great George's Street: Grade A.** A bustling pedestrianised environment with an abundance of outdoor dining on a sunny September morning. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order and it was spotless throughout. A 'Waterford Wall' project had been used to great effect along an adjoining laneway which would otherwise have been quite a grim environment

**Bring Centre at Glen Car Park: Grade A.** A poorly ranking site in IBAL 2020, things were much improved this time around.

**Ballybricken: Grade A.** The seating, signage, sculptures, band-stand etc. of this small green space were in good order. Apart from cigarette butts at the base of seating, it was excellent with regard to litter.

**Kingfisher Sports Club / Waterford Regional Sports Centre: Grade B.** The main grounds presented well but it was the very noticeable number of plastic bottles within the enclosed playing facility which brought down the litter grade at this site.

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

**Kilbarry / Waterford Nature Park: Grade A.** A wonderful resource (albeit a little difficult to locate due to lack of signage) which has been carefully presented and suitably maintained. The facilities within e.g., signage, PE equipment, parking etc. were in very good order. It was excellent with regard to litter.

**Tramore Approach Road: Grade A.** There were no visible litter issues along this road. The pedestrian pathways were in good order and road surface, markings and signage were in good condition.