



# **Denbighshire County Council**

## **How Clean are your Streets?**

### **August 2013-14**

Local Environmental Audit and Management System (LEAMS) Report

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## Introduction

The Keep Wales Tidy LEAMS survey for 2013-14 comprises of a single 6% survey sample. Details of the methodology can be seen at <http://www.keepwalestidy.org/our-projects/local-environmental-quality/leams>.

This report only contains data from the surveys undertaken by Keep Wales Tidy. It is not a report on the street scene indicator – highways and relevant land (reference STS/0798/NEW1) under the Environment and Transport – Street Scene Service/Policy area. The Street Scene Performance Indicator (PI) of ‘highways and relevant land’ (Reference STS/0798/NEW1) was introduced by the Welsh Government in February 2007. The PI for 2013-14 will be calculated from the six bi-monthly 2% surveys undertaken by Denbighshire Council and the results of this 6% survey, undertaken by Keep Wales Tidy. All surveys use the same LEAMS methodology.

The Keep Wales Tidy website currently features a “live” page of information which includes examples of good practice undertaken in other local authority areas and in other countries. We hope that you find this page useful in finding examples of work undertaken which will help identify new and innovative ways to tackle street cleanliness. In order to provide you with the most up to date information available you will also receive information on good practice currently carried out across Wales and further afield. Information on Eco – schools and community projects can also be found via our Website at <http://www.keepwalestidy.org/index>.

Please note that following discussions with the Welsh Government, the term Cleanliness Index (CI) has been changed to Cleanliness Indicator (CI). This and future reports shall refer to the Cleanliness Indicator. This is a change in name only; not methodology. Please also note that the 2013-14 survey consists of a 6% sample. This is consistent with the requirements of the PI and also allows for a direct comparison to be made with the 6% LEAMS data of 2007-08.



## Key Findings

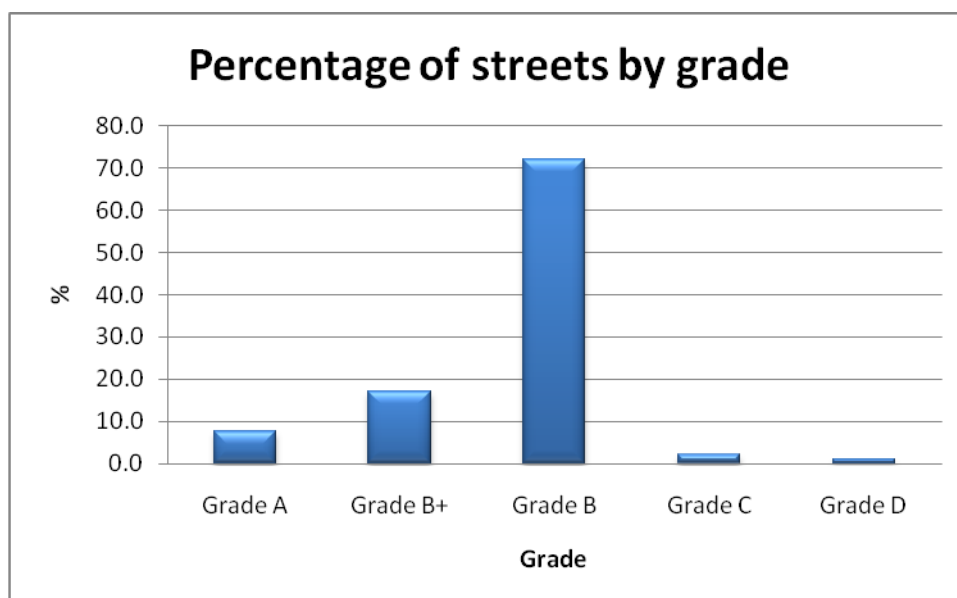
- The CI for zone 1 was 83.3
- 24.7% of transects were awarded A or B+ grades demonstrating a very high level of cleanliness.
- 96.7% of transects were awarded grades B or above. While this is lower than that recorded in Denbighshire last year it remains higher than the all Wales average.
- Chewing Gum staining was found on 77% of transects.
- 1D grade was awarded during this survey for the severe presence of dog fouling
- Fast food litter was found on 16.1% of transects this year up from 8.6% in the 2012-13 survey

## Break Down of the Results

### Section 1: Summary of Results

The most recent survey of Denbighshire was undertaken on the 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> August 2013. The Cleanliness Indicator (CI) achieved by Denbighshire from the survey is **70.6**. This is well above the average CI of **67.6** recorded across Wales in 2012-13, but below the CI of 71.7 recorded across Denbighshire in the corresponding survey last year. Of the 93 streets visited in the course of this survey, 90 (**96.7%**) were deemed to be grade B or above. This is above the current all Wales Average 2012/13 figure of 95%.

The following figure and table shows the number and percentage of streets achieving each grade during this survey.

**Figure 1: Distribution of Grades Achieved****Table 1: Number and Distribution of Grades**

Grade	Grade A	Grade B+	Grade B	Grade C	Grade D	Total
Count of Streets	7	16	67	2	1	93
Percentage of Streets	7.5	17.2	72.0	2.2	1.1	100.0

Clearly the B grade is the most common, followed by B+ grade. Any street falling below the B grade should be prioritised for action. This sample found three streets (3.3%) to be within that category. Denbighshire achieved the following scores in each of the zones for this year's survey (also see Figure 2).

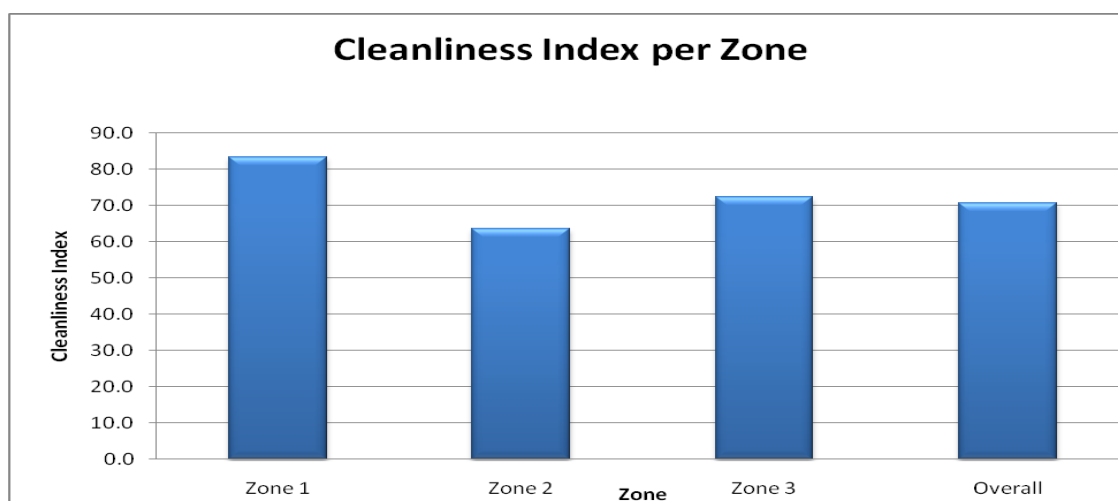
Zone 1: **83.3**

Zone 2: **63.6**

Zone 3: **72.5**

The results for Zones 1 and 3 are above the corresponding scores at an all Wales level; however the CI for Zone 2 is below the level recorded across Wales. The average scores by zone, across Wales, from 2012-13 are as follows: Zone 1 – 66.2, Zone 2 – 64.5 and Zone 3 – 69.6.

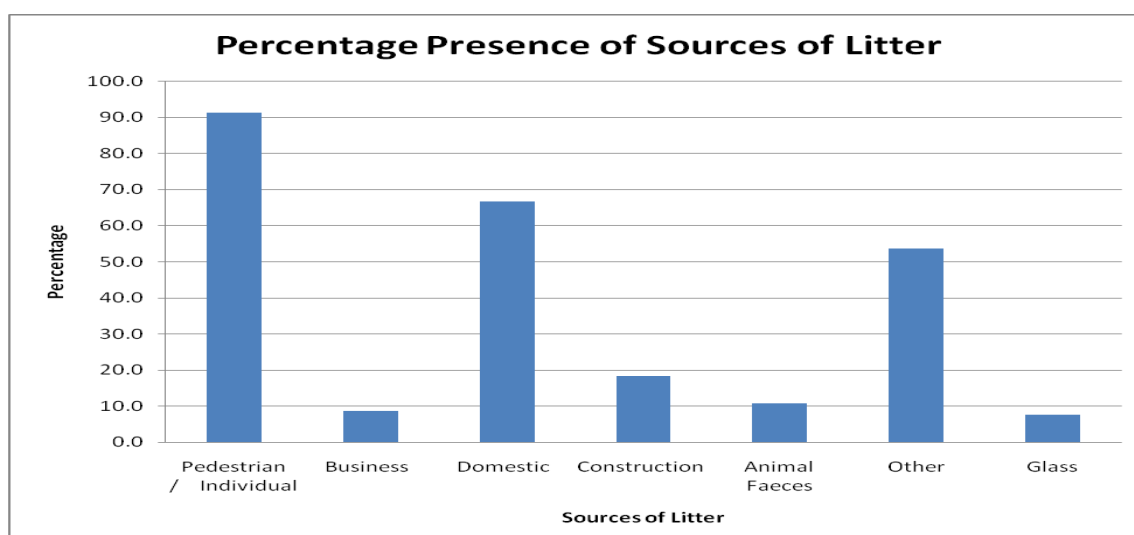
**Figure 2: Cleanliness Indicator by Zone**



The chart above shows Zone 1 to have the highest CI, only 2 streets were surveyed within this zone with one street receiving an A grade and 1 street receiving a B grade. Zone 3 had the next highest with 1 D grade (awarded for as significant presence of dog fouling) 46 B grades, 16 B+ grades and 6 A grades recorded.

Figures 3, 4 and 5 below summarise the sources and types of litter as well as the Adverse Environmental Quality Indicators found on the streets of Denbighshire.

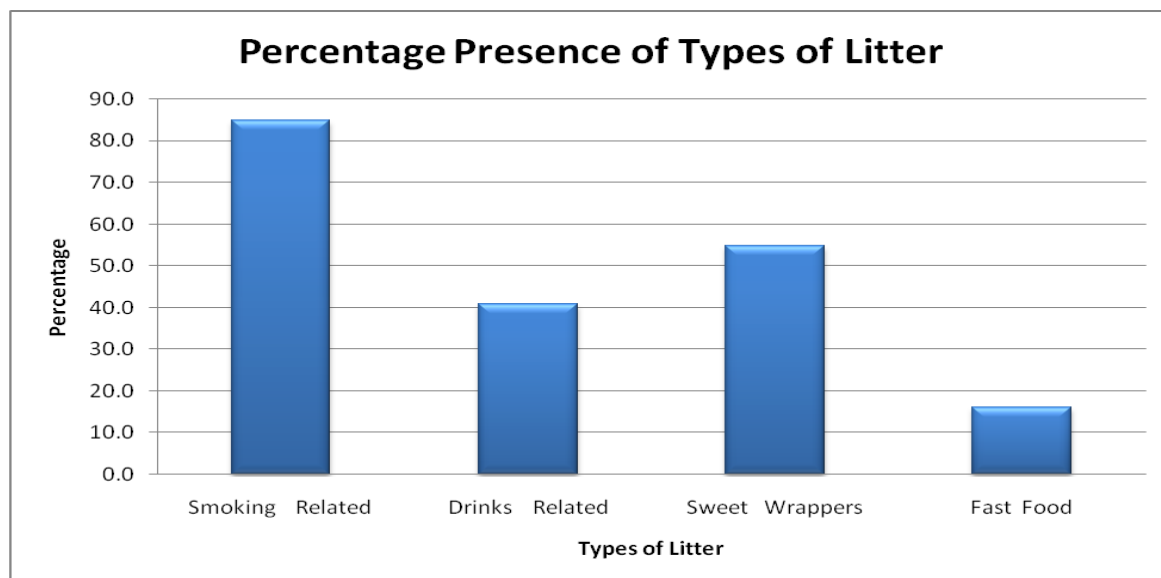
**Figure 3: Sources of Litter**



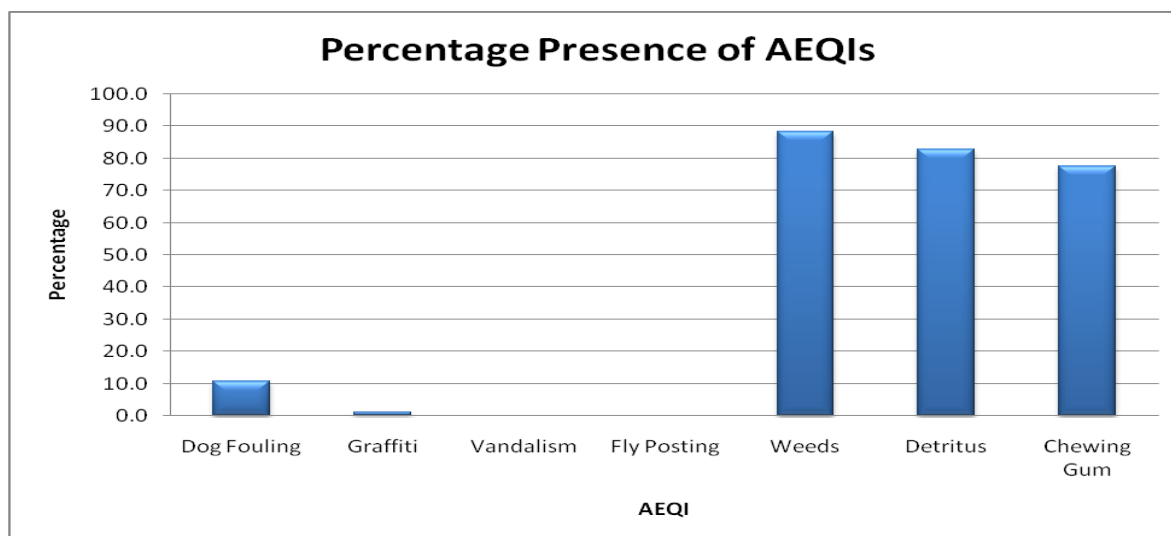
Litter from a pedestrian/individual source was present on 91.4% of streets; whilst

litter from 'other' and domestic sources were also significant (found on 53.8% and 66.7% of streets respectively). Business and construction litter were present on 8.6% and 18.3% of streets respectively. Animal faeces is shown to have effected 10.8% of streets and glass 7.5%.

**Figure 4: Types of Litter**



The most common litter issue facing Denbighshire is the presence of smoking-related litter (predominantly cigarette ends). This litter was encountered on 84.9% of the streets surveyed and was responsible for changing the grade on 7 occasions (7.5%). Sweets and drinks-related litter were also widespread, found on 54.8% and 40.9% of streets respectively, whilst fast food litter was recorded on 16.1% of streets.

**Figure 5: Adverse Environmental Quality Indicators**

For the 2013/14 survey Keep Wales Tidy will be monitoring the presence of chewing gum staining on streets. As with detritus, graffiti and fly posting, chewing gum staining will be graded A – D.

Weeds, detritus and chewing gum are by far the most prevalent AEQIs, with figures of 88.2% and 82.8% respectively for weeds and detritus and a presence of 77.4% for chewing gum. Graffiti was present on 1.1% of streets with dog fouling found on 10.8%. No incidents of vandalism or fly posting were recorded. See also Figures 6 and 7 below.



**Figure 6: Severity of Adverse Environmental Quality Indicators**

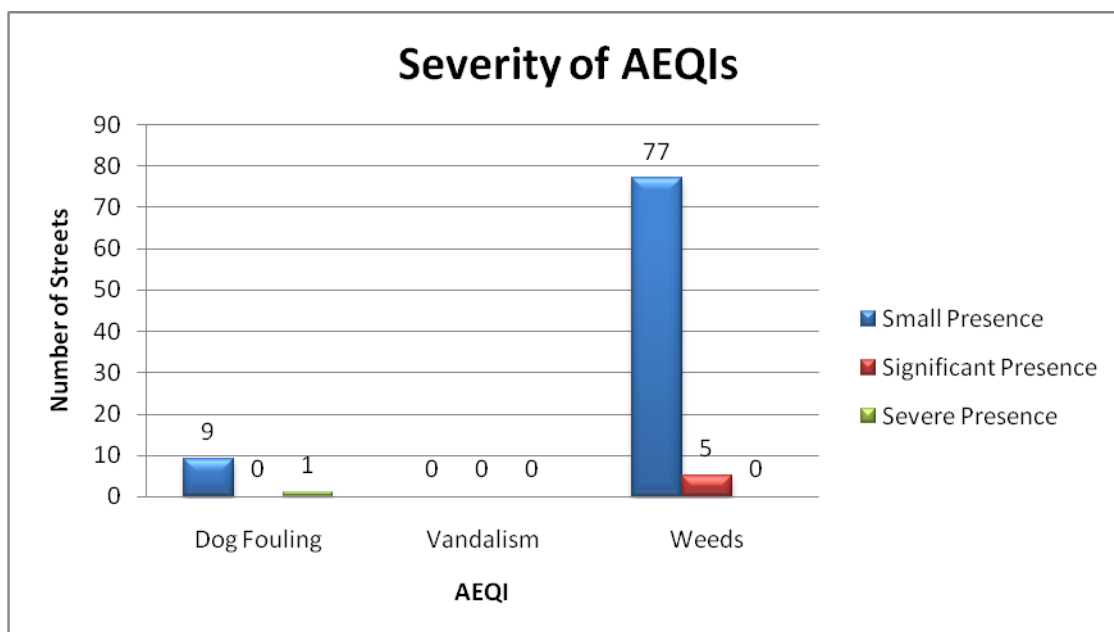


Figure 6, above, shows that the majority of streets with dog fouling had a 'small presence, with a severe presence on 1 street (Y Culgant, Corwen). Any presence of dog fouling is regrettable and means the street in question can score no higher than a B grade. Figure 6 also shows that the vast majority of streets with weeds had a small presence and that there was a significant presence on just 5 streets.

**Figure 7: Percentage presence of grades for Detritus, Graffiti, Fly-posting and Chewing gum Staining**

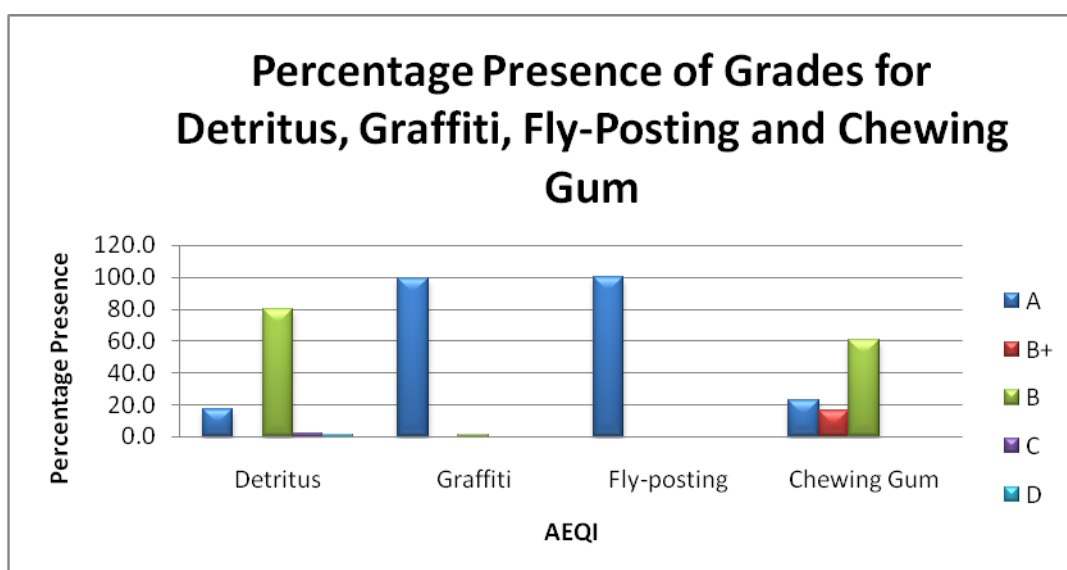


Figure 7 shows that the vast majority of grades for detritus were grade B which relates to being 'predominantly free' in relation to the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse and Associated Guidance 2007 (COPLAR). B grade was also the most common grade encountered for chewing gum. It is pleasing that no C or D grades were awarded for chewing gum, graffiti and fly-posting.

One litter bin was encountered during this survey, which was not deemed to be overflowing.

## Section 2: Comparisons

This paper includes two comparison sections. The first section analyses findings from recent survey results. The second provides a direct comparison between the first 6% survey undertaken in Denbighshire (in 2007-08) and the most recent 6% survey (undertaken this year).

This section draws comparisons across data collected in Denbighshire over previous years. We hope that trends and issues will be noted and responded to by the Local Authority. The following chart shows how the CI has differed over the last six survey years.

**Figure 8: Cleanliness Indicator by Year**

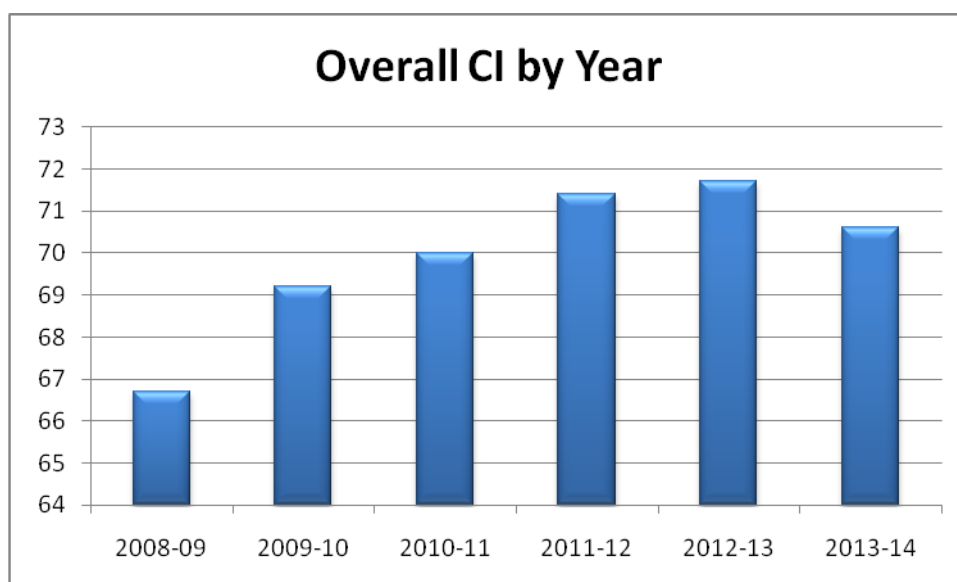


Figure 8 shows mixed results. While it is pleasing to see that the CI for 2013/14 is

above that of 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11, the overall CI is lower than that recorded in 2011/12 or 2012/13. Although the results represent a fall for Denbighshire Council the CI of 70.6 remains significantly above the All Wales Average of 67.6.

**Figure 9: Comparison of CI by Zone and Year**

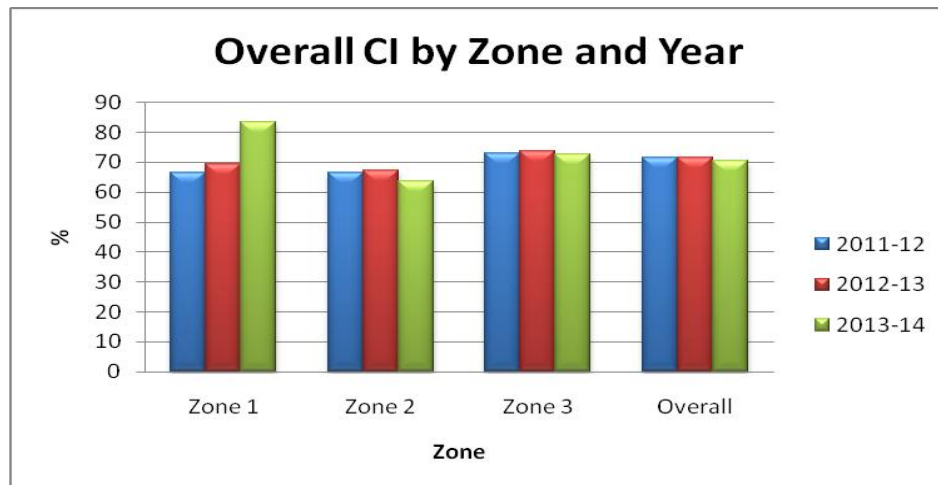


Figure 9, which compares results from the most recent three surveys, shows a variation of changes. The current results for Zone 1 is far higher than in previous survey years while Zones 2 and 3 have seen slight falls since last year. Zone 1 comprises the smaller of the three samples and is, as such, more susceptible to variation.

**Figure 10: Comparison of Grades by Year**

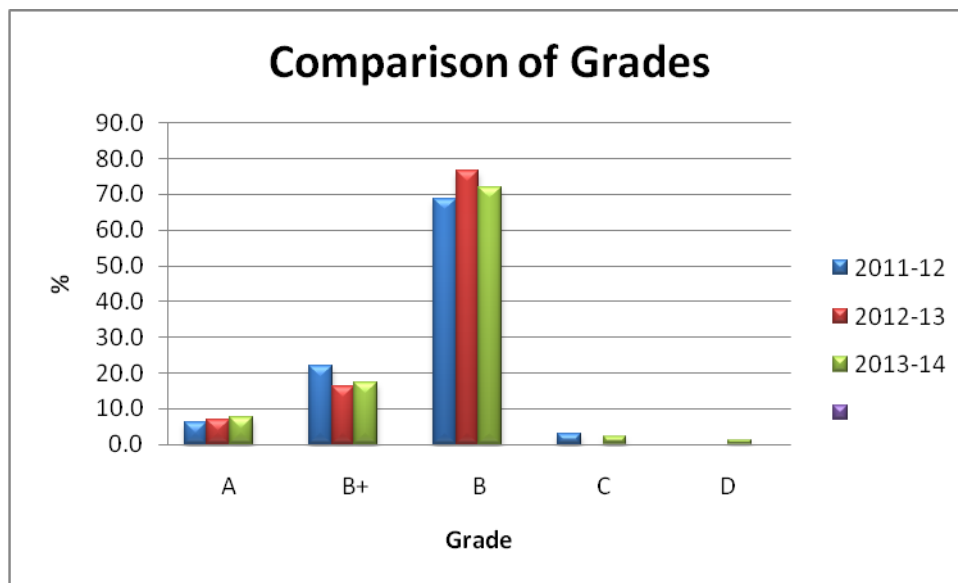


Figure 10 shows some positive results with an increase in both A and B+ grades since last year. Unfortunately this year, a small % of both C and D grade streets were recorded, unlike last year when no C or D grade streets were recorded.

**Figure 11: Comparison of Litter Types by Year**

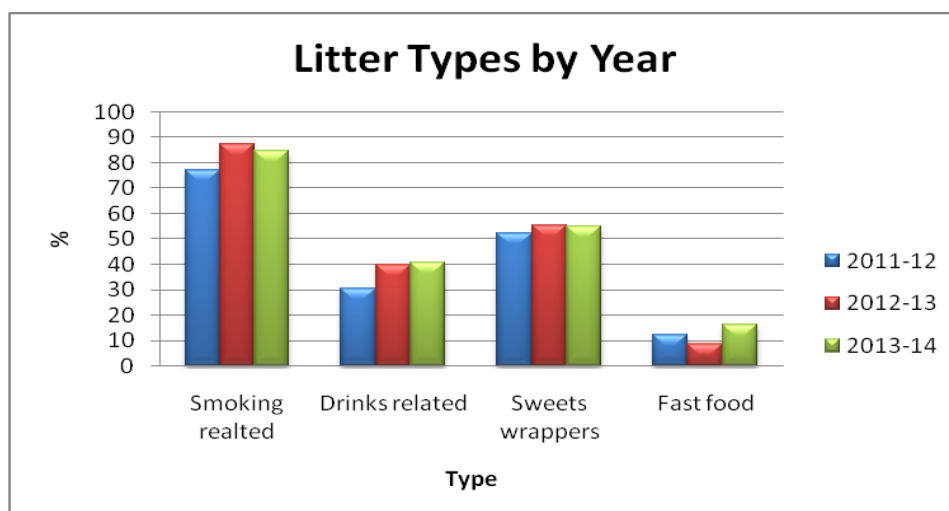
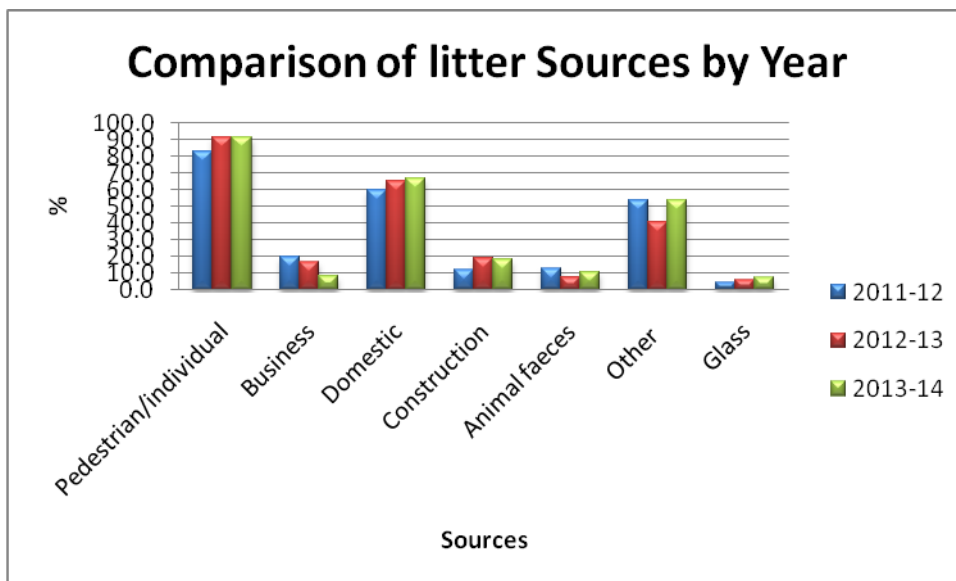


Figure 11 shows mixed results. Drinks and sweets litter remain at a similar level to last year, while fast food litter has seen a substantial increase in presence. It is pleasing to see that smoking related litter has reduced during the last year, although the figure of 84.9% remains higher than that recorded in 2011-12.

Figure 12: Comparison of Litter Sources by Year



The above graph shows an increase in 4 of the 7 sources of litter. The biggest increase has been in 'other' litter which increased from 40.6% in 2012-13 to 53.8% this year. The biggest fall has been in business related litter, which has fallen from 19.4% two years ago to 8.6% of streets this year.

Figure 13: Comparison of AEQIs by Year

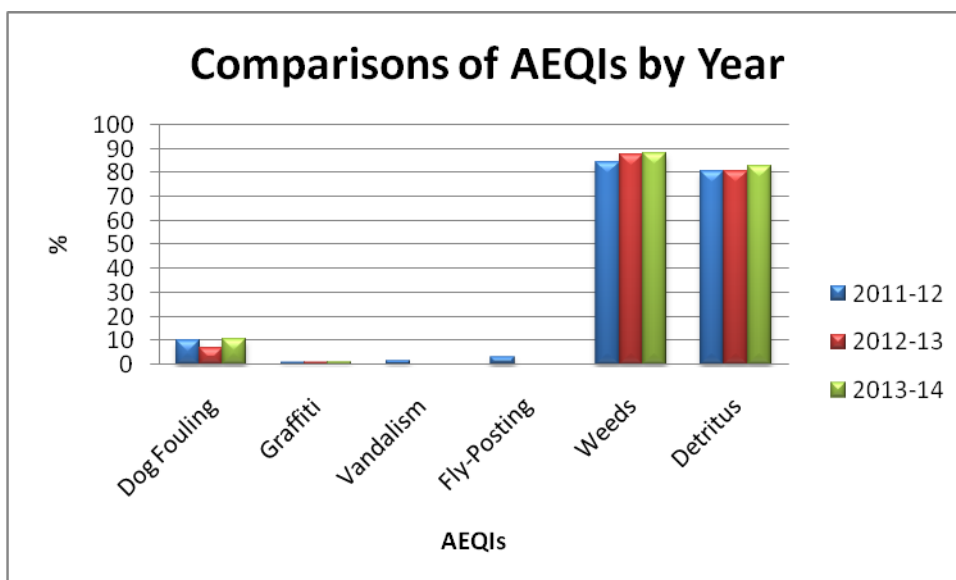


Figure 11 is pleasing. For a second year no vandalism or fly-posting was recorded on survey, with graffiti remaining at a very low level. Disappointingly the biggest

increase has been in dog fouling, which has increased from a presence of 7% to 10.8%. Weeds and detritus have both seen slight increases in presence during the last 2 years.

### Section 3: Comparison six years on

The following section provides a comparison of two Keep Wales Tidy LEAMS results; taken from 2007/08 and 2013/14. The 2007/08 survey was the first LEAMS survey to take place in each of the 22 local authorities across Wales and comprised of a 6% sample. The 2013/14 survey was also a 6% sample. This comparison allows for longer term changes to be observed, alongside the yearly data analysis above.

Figure 14: Comparison of CI six years on

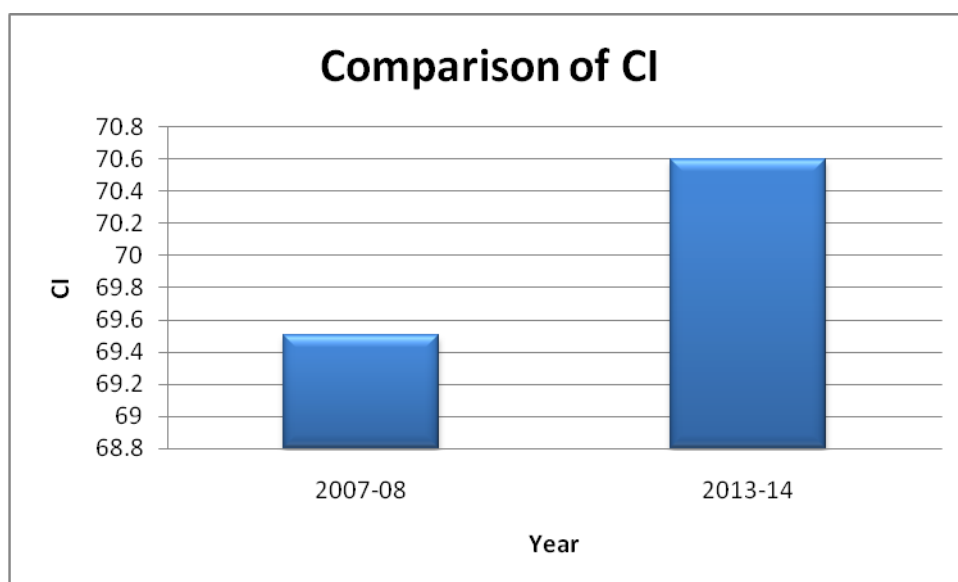


Figure 14 shows a pleasing improvement in the CI attained since 2007-08. It has increased from a baseline figure of 69.5 to 70.6 in 2013/14.

**Figure 15: Comparison of CI by Zone and Year**

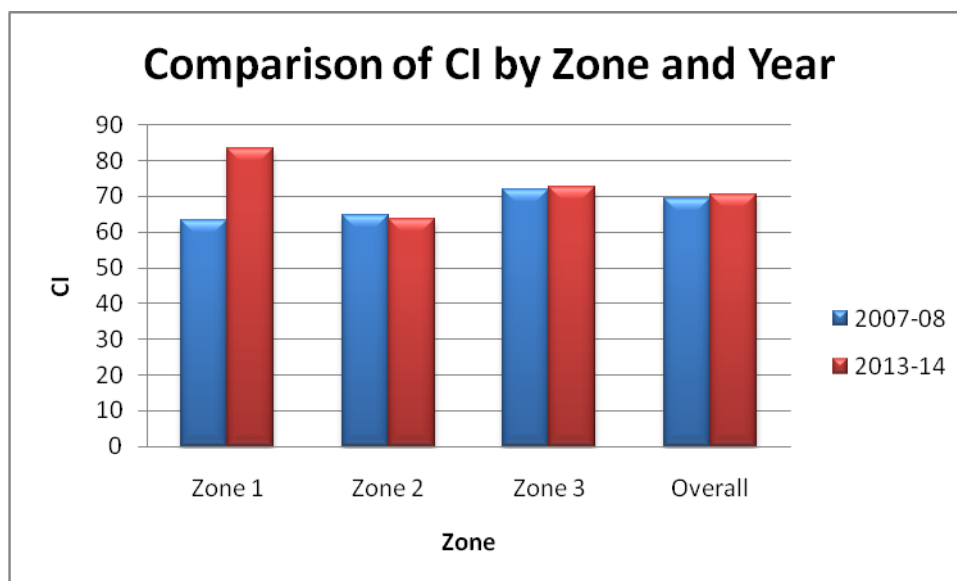


Figure 15 shows improvements in the CI score achieved for Zones 1 and 3. Zone 2 has, however seen a slight decrease in its CI score.

**Figure 16: Presence of Litter Types by Year**

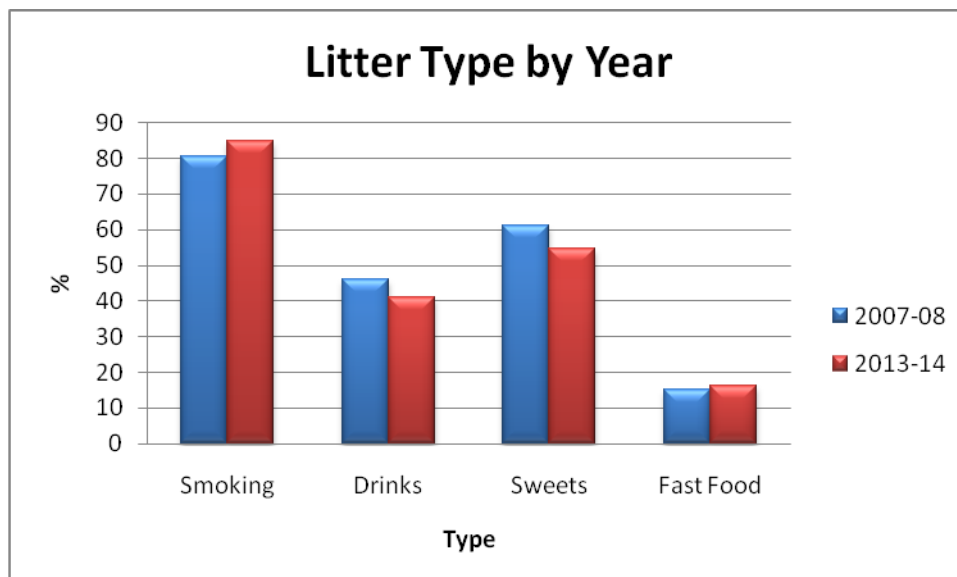


Figure 16 shows mixed results. Drinks and sweets litter have both seen significant improvements in percentage presence, while fast food and smoking litter have both increased. Smoking related litter remains the most common litter type found on

Denbighshire's streets.

**Figure 17: Presence of Litter Sources by Year**

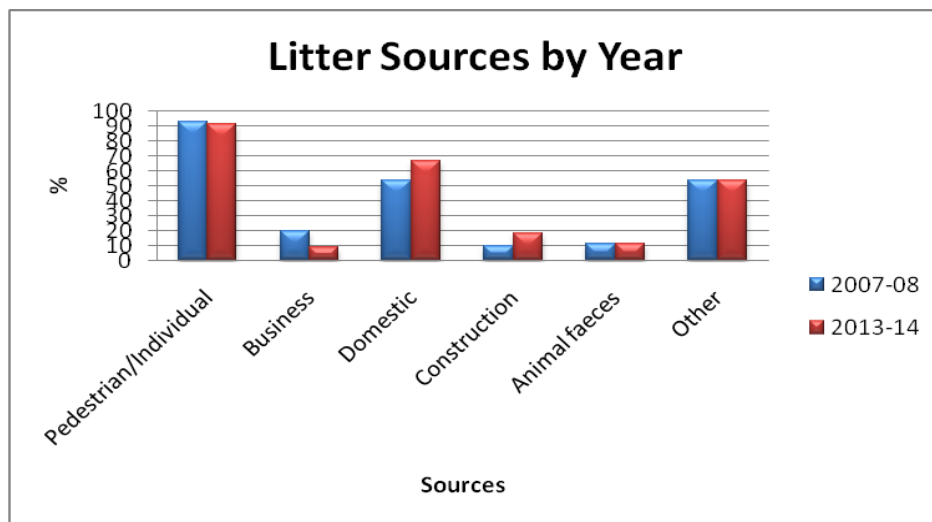


Figure 17 again shows mixed results. Domestic and construction litter have both seen significant increases in presence, while the presence of business litter has fallen substantially. Animal Faeces, 'Other' unidentifiable litter and pedestrian remain at a similar level to that recorded in 2007/08.

**Figure 18: Presence of AEQIs by Year**

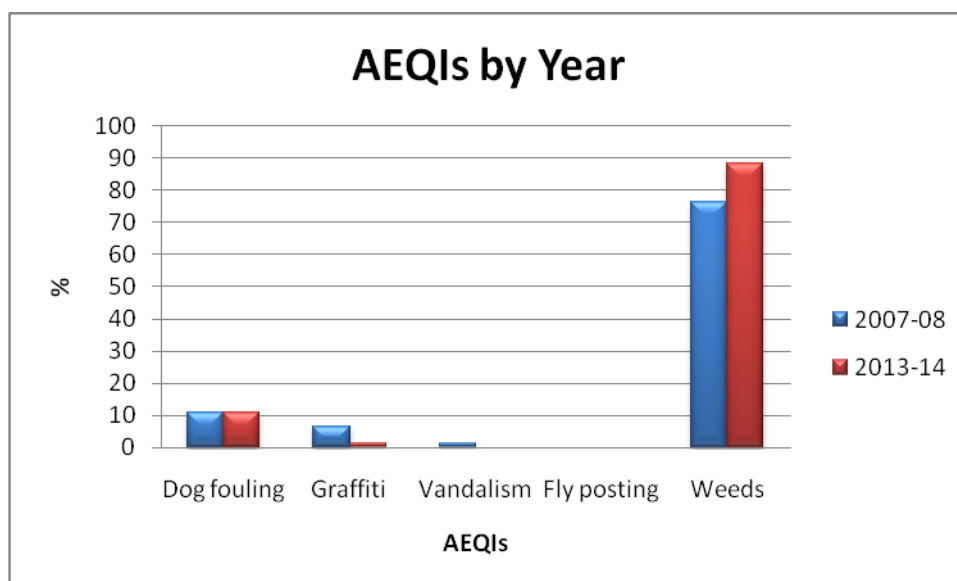




Figure 18 shows significant improvements to the presence of graffiti found on streets within Denbighshire. Vandalism found on 1.1% of transects in 2007/08 was not recorded in the most recent survey. There has, however, been a significant increase in the % of streets affected by weeds rising from 76.3% in 2007-08 to 88.2% this year.

Denbighshire has had consistently good results in recent years particularly the low numbers of streets receiving C or D grades. It is, therefore disappointing that Denbighshire has seen a slight downturn in their CI score this year. However the fact that many of the scores remain above the All Wales Average is pleasing. As mentioned at the beginning of the report a list of good practice examples that might help you in continuing to tackle some of the above environmental issue will be circulated with this report. If you have any good practice examples from Denbighshire then we would like to hear about them. Please send them to [catrin.james@keepwalestidy.org](mailto:catrin.james@keepwalestidy.org).