

**TITLE: Cleanliness Index Monitoring System (CIMS) for Street Cleansing**

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**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to update Members on the Cleanliness Index Monitoring System (C.I.M.S) For Street Cleansing and Validation Reports carried out by the Council and Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) up to October 2008. Extracts from the KSB October 2008 survey are enclosed as an appendix.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.2** To note the contents of the Keep Scotland Beautiful report and the actions of Operational Services

**3. DETAIL**

- 3.1** Members may recall previous reports on the Cleanliness Index Monitoring System (C.I.M.S) and Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) survey reports in previous years.
- 3.2** The C.I.M.S Index is a systematic scoring system on street cleanliness, which is carried out by taking a random section of the street or open public area and recording the score of cleanliness in relation to the Litter Code of Practice. To achieve the Litter Code of Practice, an overall score of 67 and above is desirable.
- 3.3** The verified overall Cleanliness Index survey score for the Council in October 2008 was 80 (73 last year).

Members will note the scores of 73(68), and 81(76) for Cowal and Bute respectively “( )” previous year. Since the last Area Committee Report on C.I.M.S in November 2007, some improvements which have taken place are as follows

1. Implementation of wheeled bins recycling routes throughout the area last year, which has increased the range of collections to householders and businesses, the associated fortnightly collections have not had a detrimental effect on Cleanliness Indices.

2. The enforcement and education work carried out by the Environment/dog/community Wardens( now Streetscene officers).

**3.4** A review of the Environment/Dog/Community Wardens and their duties has been carried out by Ian Fawcett (Assist. Streetscene Manager). This highlights a hierarchy of priorities on how the newly formed Streetscene officers should operate.

**Priority 1: Education**

To educate the public on environment issues such as littering, dog fouling, fly tipping, and recycling.

**Priority 2: Prevention**

Be seen and be heard, patrols, clearly marked van..

**Priority 3: Enforcement**

Reports to the Procurator Fiscal, Issue Fixed Penalty notices litter, fly tipping, dog fouling. Sign up commercial waste agreements.

**Priority 4: Other**

Any other duties should be undertaken if they do not interfere with priorities 1-3.

Some of the actions carried out by the Streetscene officers over the past 18 months are listed below:

**(a) Fly tipping**

All reports of fly tipping are dealt with by our Streetscene Officers, by its nature it is difficult to trace the perpetrators of fly tipping, In B&C only a small number of calls relating to this are taken over a year, It falls on the land owner to pay for clearance of any items tipped.

**(b) Abandoned Vehicles**

Regular patrols around the area continue, and any vehicles that appear to have been abandoned are “stickered” (24hr notice) and removed from public ground, In B&C our Officers deal with reports from members of the public and when out on patrol, 38 cars last year were given notices and 4 removed by Shanks after the 24 hour period, the others were removed or scrapped by the owners.

**(c) Dog Fouling**

Regular patrols also continue for dog fouling with one fine having been issued. Patrols only seem to be effective when the warden is in the local area, and more help from the local community in the local area is always welcome (i.e. giving statements including names, times etc.), In Cowal a fixed penalty notice was handed out in June and several warning letters have been sent out advising dog owners of their responsibility etc, mainly where the public have reported dog fouling issues, 17 fixed penalty notices were handed out and one case was thrown out by the rocurator fiscal, The additional officers on the ground will ensure this issue is given a higher profile.

**(d) Civic Amenity Site Inspections**

Inspections of civic amenity sites have flagged up instances of abuse by commercial customers which has resulted in bills being sent out to those concerned, Regular meeting between Shanks and the Council take place.

**(e) Litter**

Patrols with the local police have again only been effective when the warden and police are actually in the area. Guidance from KSB leans towards not issuing fixed penalty notices to children. In Cowal one of our Streetscene officer holds meetings with the Grammar School to drive home the message of littering and the consequences, letters to school children's parents who are caught dropping litter have been sent out.

**3.5** Operational Services staff will continue with C.I.M.S monitoring in conjunction with Keep Scotland Beautiful and attempt to tackle problem areas. Under the Anti-social Behaviour (Scotland) Act, new fixed penalties can be issued for littering and fly-tipping. Procedures with Legal and Protective Services on this have been agreed and we will issue fixed penalties for littering, dog fouling, and fly- tipping where necessary, B&C now have 3 Streetscene Officers on patrol.

**3.6** Local Environment Audit and Management Systems (LEAMS) are used by Audit Scotland as a new national performance indicator for cleanliness in all 32 Scottish Local Authorities and is similar to CIMS scoring.

The main differences between LEAMS and CIMS are:

- (a) A smaller % transect of street is used for LEAMS.
- (b) LEAMS does not include the B+ score for streets with only cigarette ends. The B+ is not included in the Litter Code of Practice and therefore not accepted by Audit Scotland.
- (c) Councils audit each other twice a year with LEAMS surveys.

Our LEAMS score for 2008/09 was 75 (the Litter Code of Practice compliance target is 67) with the Scottish average being 74.

The LEAMS results show that the public drop 72% of litter with the remainder mainly arising from poorly presented business and domestic waste.

The KSB overall CIMS score in respect of the October 2008 Report attached was 80 (73), this includes B+ cigarette ends.

Chief Executive of Keep Scotland Beautiful John Summers, said: 'Local Authorities are to be commended on the fantastic work they do to keep our country clean but there is still a huge amount of work to be done, by them and each and every one of us. We all have a part to play to Keep Scotland litter free and can all help by putting our litter in the bin and disposing of our waste responsibly'.

3.7 Keep Scotland Beautiful and Council staff will carry out further surveys in 2009 and results will be reported to Members.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

4.1 This Report highlights the Cleanliness Index Monitoring System including extracts from Keep Scotland Beautiful's October 2008 Report (full Report available in Members Lounge) and actions by Operational Services.

#### 5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Policy – continues the work by Operational Services to focus on improvements to basic service delivery.

5.2 Financial – None.

5.3 Personnel – None.

5.4 Equal Opportunities – None.

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#### LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Argyll and Bute Council Cleanliness Validation Survey by Keep Scotland Beautiful – October 2008

# Argyll and Bute Council CIMS Survey Report



October 2008

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October 2008 Keep Scotland Beautiful assessed the cleanliness standard of the Argyll & Bute Council area. This survey has been carried out as part of Argyll and Bute Council's Cleanliness Index Monitoring System (CIMS). This is the thirteenth validation survey carried out by Keep Scotland Beautiful.

The Argyll & Bute Council area surveyed consisted of 193 sites. The survey reflects the standard of cleanliness of these areas achieved at the time of the survey.

The following criteria were assessed:

- Standard of cleanliness
- Sources of litter
- Types of litter
- Adverse Environmental Quality Indicators
- Comparison to previous survey results



## **Standard of Cleanliness**

- Overall, the Argyll & Bute Council area achieved a cleanliness index of 80. This is four index points higher than the previous survey carried out in November 2007.

## **Grade of sites and zones**

- Twelve percent of transects were of a grade B plus standard. Fifty eight percent of all the sites surveyed were of a grade B standard. Twenty seven percent of sites achieved a grade A standard. Three percent of sites surveyed were observed to be of an unsatisfactory grade C level. No sites surveyed were recorded as being of a grade D standard.
- Ninety seven percent of sites in Argyll and Bute were of an acceptable grade A, B+ or B standard.
- Three percent of sites in Argyll and Bute were of an unacceptable grade C or D standard.

## **Sources of litter**

- The most common source of litter was pedestrian/individual litter. This source of litter affected 73% of the sites surveyed throughout the Argyll & Bute Council area.
- Animal faeces were the next most common source of litter, which affected 3% of the sites surveyed.

## **Types of litter**

- Smoking related litter was the most common type of litter found during this survey, affecting 54% of the sites surveyed. Confectionery related litter was the next most common type of litter found, observed in 46% of the sites surveyed. Drinks related litter was found in 23% of sites. Fast food litter was recorded in 7% of sites.

## **Adverse Environmental Quality Indicators**

- Detritus was found to be the most commonly found Adverse Environmental Quality Indicator throughout the Argyll & Bute Council area. Overall, 56% of the sites surveyed had detritus present.

# INTRODUCTION

**Keep Scotland Beautiful** conducted a Cleanliness Standards Survey of the **Argyll & Bute Council** area, using the Keep Scotland Beautiful methodology. The cleanliness of both streets and functional sites (i.e. parks, grassed areas, car parks etc.) was assessed in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and its attendant Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2006. This study is part of the Argyll & Bute Council People & Places Programme Cleanliness Index Monitoring System (CIMS) and is the thirteenth survey to be undertaken for Argyll and Bute Council. The sample size selected for this survey was 10% of street sites. The results of this survey have been compared to previous surveys of the area conducted by Keep Scotland Beautiful in conjunction with Argyll & Bute Council staff where possible. The survey was conducted during October 2008.

The following criteria were assessed:

- **Cleanliness grade**
- **Zone**
- **Sources of litter**
- **Types of litter**
- **Adverse Environmental Quality Indicators** (absence/scale of presence)
- **Litter Bins** (total count and number)

Additional comments were made where relevant, and supporting photographs were taken throughout the survey.

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

## 1.1 Grades of Cleanliness

Each area of study (transect) was graded according to the system outlined in the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2006, which relates to Part IV of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA).

There are four grades of cleanliness, which are defined as follows:

- Grade A**      No litter or refuse
- Grade B**      Predominantly free of litter and refuse - apart from small items
- Grade C**      Widespread distribution of litter and refuse with minor accumulations
- Grade D**      Heavily littered with significant accumulations

This grading system is based on research into standards of cleanliness that most people regarded as being acceptable or unacceptable. Under this system Grade C and Grade D are unacceptable and must be cleaned (in most cases to a Grade A condition) within a specified period of time (see section 1.3). Grade A is the standard which a thorough conventional sweeping/litter-picking should achieve. The overall aim, however, should be to operate a management system where acceptable standards of cleanliness (Grades A and B) are maintained at all relevant times.

It should be noted that an additional grade has been included in this survey, B+, to provide extra management information. This grade was awarded to transects that had no more than 3 small items of litter sized below 3cm by 1 cm. It must be noted however that this standard of cleanliness is not included in the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2006 and is just a management tool designed to help distinguish the almost litter free streets from the standard Grade B streets.

## 1.2 Zones

In addition to ascertaining the grade of each transect, each street was assigned a zone category as follows:

- Zone 1** Town centres, shopping centres, major transport centres, central car parks
- Zone 2** High-density residential areas, land laid out as recreational areas, suburban car parks and transport centres, high density industrial estates
- Zone 3** Low-density residential areas, low density industrial estates
- Zone 4** All other areas, i.e. rural and semi-rural areas

A more detailed description of zones is given in the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2006. The zone has an implication on the cleansing response time, as shown in the following section.

### 1.3 Cleanliness Standards

The Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2006, which accompanies the Environmental Protection Act 1990, defines maximum response times required when a litter problem is reported within or to a Local Authority. For example, when a Grade D in Zone 1 is reported to the relevant officer in a Local Authority, that Council has 1 hour to respond and to return the Grade D to a Grade A. This is illustrated in Figure 1.

In summary, these maximum response times will only ensure minimum standards as defined by The Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2006.

**Figure 1. Cleanliness Standards Table (Extract)**

Category Zone		CLEANLINESS STANDARD			
		A	B	C	D
1	TOWN CENTRES	←	6hrs		
		←		3hrs	
		←			1hr
2	HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL	←	12hrs		
		←		6hrs	
		←			3hrs
3	LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL	←	2 weeks		
		←		12 hrs	
		←			6hrs

## 1.4 Sources of Litter

During this survey each transect containing litter had the sources of litter identified as follows:

- **Pedestrian / individual** - e.g. drinks cans, sweet wrappers, fast food packaging, lottery tickets, cigarette ends, matches. Also includes litter dropped by motorists.
- **Business Waste** - any waste that has come directly from a business, e.g. headed paper, envelopes, and advertising flyers. This category also includes elastic bands dropped by the postman.
- **Domestic waste** - any waste that has escaped from domestic refuse, e.g. household packaging.
- **Construction waste** - any waste that has been left over from construction work, e.g. builders rubble, sandbags, traffic cones.
- **Animal Faeces** - any type of animal faeces including dog, horse and pigeon fouling etc.
- **Other** - any other litter which does not fit into the above categories, e.g. vehicle parts.

## 1.5 Types of Litter

Keep Scotland Beautiful surveys carried out throughout Scotland have shown that, of the above litter sources, pedestrian/individual is the most commonly found. The materials found most frequently are those associated with eating, drinking and smoking. The four most commonly found types of litter are:

- **Smoking related litter** - cigarette ends, matches, matchboxes, cigarette packaging.
- **Drinks related litter** - includes cans, bottles, cups, straws and lids.
- **Confectionery related litter** - includes chewing gum wrappers and crisp packets.
- **Fast food litter** - fish and chip wrappers, polystyrene cartons, burger wrappers, plastic cutlery etc.

Throughout the survey the presence of these four types of litter within transects was recorded.

## 1.6 Environmental Quality Indicators

In addition to the cleanliness of streets, absence or presence of the following Adverse Environmental Quality Indicators (AEQI's) will play an important part in forming an image of a place in the minds of residents, businesses, visitors and investors:

- **Dog fouling** - the only AEQI surveyed that must be considered alongside other litter and refuse when determining the cleanliness grade.
- **Vandalism** - defined as wilful and senseless damage of property, which adversely affects the quality of the life and environment, e.g. damaged street furniture.
- **Graffiti** - defined as unauthorised drawing or writing on surrounding buildings or street furniture such as benches, lampposts, litter bins, etc.
- **Weeds** - the presence of weeds in the transect may indicate poor / infrequent sweeping and can trap litter.
- **Detritus** - any natural debris causing visual defacement of an area and which may trap or conceal litter, typically mud, grit, leaves and blossom.
- **Chewing Gum** - defined as the presence of discarded chewing gum that causes poor visual amenity on pavements and roads.
- **Fly-posting** - defined as stickers or posters placed in unauthorised places and not on billboards. Unauthorised places refer to buildings, bus shelters, fence posts, etc. within the transects.
- **Fly-tipping** - the presence of dumped waste (from domestic, commercial or construction sources) is also recorded.

The presence of each of the above within transects was recorded throughout the survey.

## 1.7 Litter Bins

The number of litter bins within each transect was noted during the survey. If a litter bin within a transect was overflowing, this was also recorded. Overflowing litter bins are defined as litter bins, used by the public, which are full to capacity and litter has escaped onto the surrounding area. The transect is graded according to the litter from the bin which has fallen within the transect.

## **1.8 Comments and Photographs**

Comments were made on the survey form to gain an insight into the specific problems being observed, for example if a large amount of chewing gum was seen, to describe what kind of business waste was found, or if an abandoned vehicle was encountered – and also to note good practice, such as a privately sponsored litter bin.

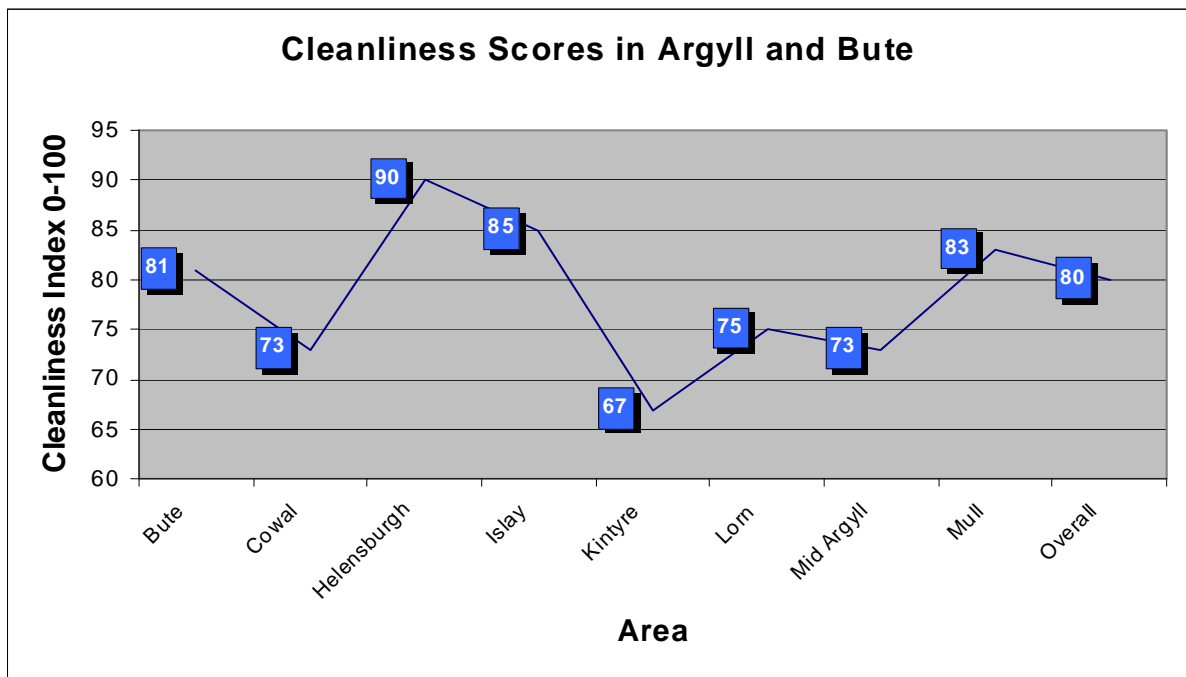
Photographs were taken where this would support survey findings, for example of Grade C and D sites, when AEQIs were present, if accumulations of litter were present adjacent to the transect and so on.

# SECTION A - RESULTS

## 2.1 Cleanliness Indices

The overall cleanliness index for Argyll & Bute was 80, an increase of four cleanliness index points since the previous survey in November 2007. This result demonstrates a good overall standard of cleanliness. The October 2008 survey highlights that the Argyll and Bute Council area is exceeding, by 13 index points, the cleanliness standards required by the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the associated Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2006.

**Figure 2a Cleanliness Indices in the Argyll and Bute Council area**



**Figure 2a** illustrates the cleanliness index difference between the geographic areas for the Argyll and Bute Council area.



As **Figure 2a** shows, the cleanliness index achieved, varied between a low of 67 in Kintyre, to a high of 90 in Helensburgh. Five geographical areas scored an index of 80 or above. Three geographical areas had an index of 70-79. One geographical area scored an index of 60-69. During this survey all areas achieved the minimum required cleanliness index of 67 laid down by the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2006.

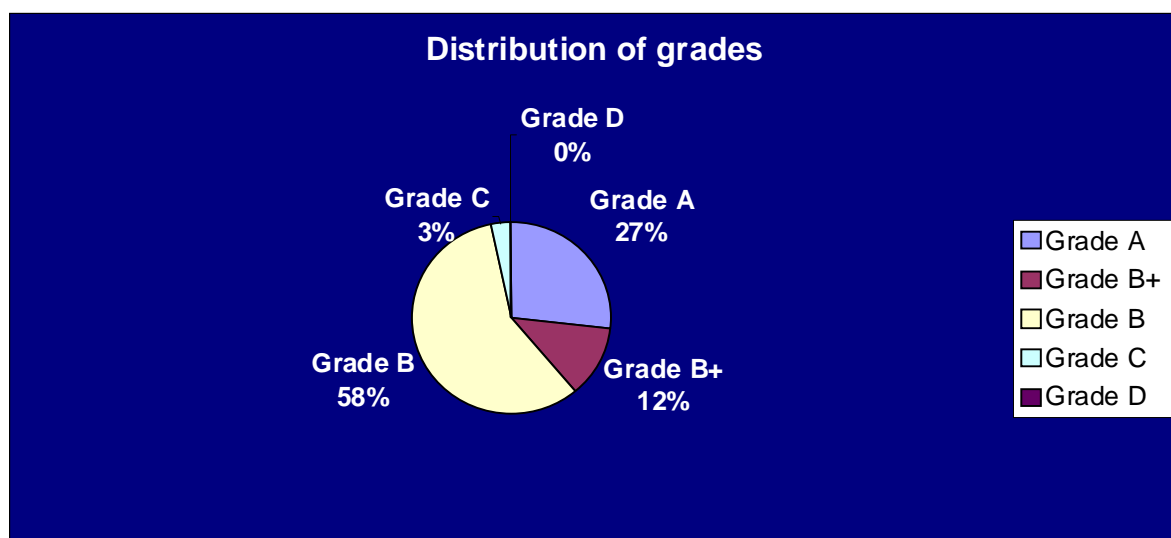
## 2.2 Grades of Sites

**Figure 2b** shows the percentage distribution of grades A, B+, B, C and D throughout Argyll & Bute. As discussed in the background information section of this report, the four grades of cleanliness are defined in the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2006 as follows:

- Grade A** No litter or refuse
- Grade B** Predominantly free of litter and refuse – apart from small items
- Grade C** Widespread distribution of litter and refuse with minor accumulations
- Grade D** Heavily littered with significant accumulations

It should be noted that an additional grade has been included in this survey, B+, to provide extra management information. This grade was awarded to transects that had no more than 3 small items of litter sized below 3cm by 1 cm. It must be noted however that this standard of cleanliness is not included in the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2006 and is just a management tool designed to help distinguish the almost litter free streets from the standard Grade B streets.

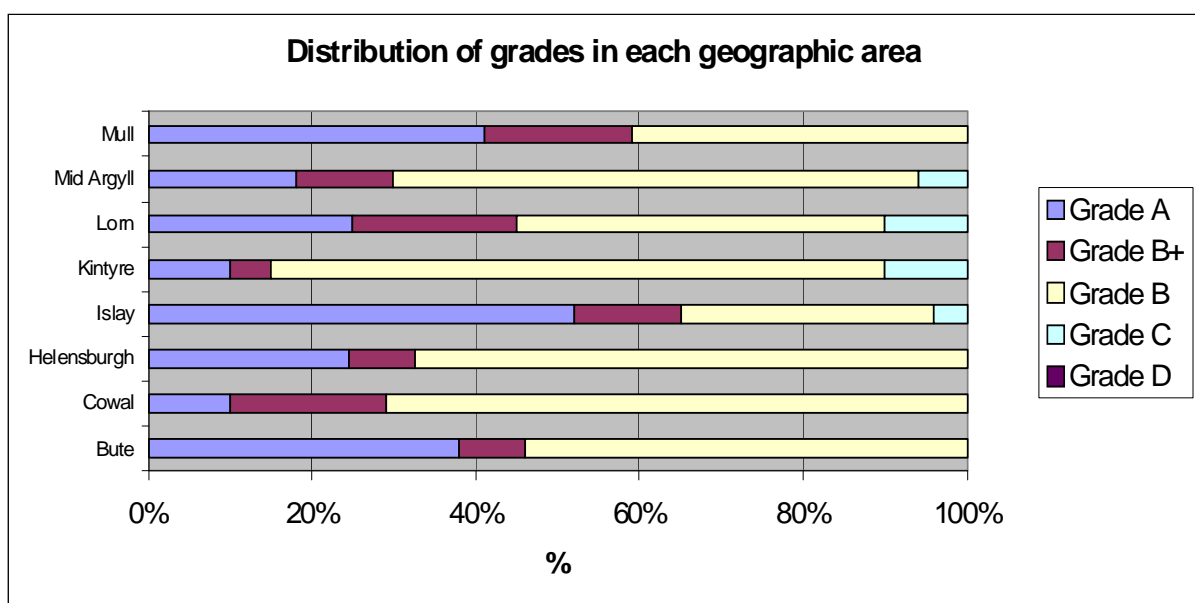
**Figure 2b** Distribution of grades Argyll and Bute Council area



The breakdown of the cleanliness grades of sites shows the trend in the overall cleanliness standards throughout the Argyll & Bute Council area. The percentage of A grades achieved has decreased from 29% in November 2007 to 27% in October 2008. The percentage presence of grade C sites has fallen by 1% from 4% to 3% from the previous survey. Grade D sites were not present in the October 2008 or November 2007 surveys.

Ninety seven percent of sites were of an acceptable Grade A, B+ or B standard. Three percent of sites were of an unacceptable Grade C or D standard.

**Figure 2c** Distribution of grades in each geographic area in Argyll and Bute



**Figure 2c** shows the percentage distribution of grades A, B+, B, C and D throughout the geographic areas within the Argyll & Bute Council area.

Grade A sites were recorded in all areas in Argyll and Bute, the highest percentages were found in Islay (52%), Mull (41%) and Bute (38%). Grade C sites were found in Kintyre (10%), Lorn (10%), Mid Argyll (6%) and Islay (4%). No geographic areas had grade D sites present.

All geographic areas had B+ grades present, which reflects the fact that a number of streets in these areas are almost achieving a Grade A standard.

## 2.3 Sources of litter

This section considers the sources of litter found in the sites surveyed within the Argyll & Bute Council area. The following sources of litter are generally found to be the most prevalent, therefore were assessed for their presence or absence:

- Pedestrian /Individual
- Business Waste
- Domestic Waste
- Construction Waste
- Animal Faeces
- Other

**Figure 2d** Distribution of litter sources in Argyll and Bute Council area

	<i>Pedestrian</i> (%)	<i>Business</i> (%)	<i>Domestic</i> (%)	<i>Constructio</i> <i>n</i> (%)	<i>Animal</i> <i>Faeces</i> (%)	<i>Other</i> (%)
<b>Overall</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
Bute	63	0	0	0	0	0
Cowal	90	0	0	0	0	0
Helensburg h	74	2	0	0	0	0
Islay	48	0	0	0	0	0
Kintyre	90	0	0	0	10	0
Lorn	75	5	0	0	5	0
Mid Argyll	88	0	0	0	0	0
Mull	59	6	0	0	6	0

As **figure 2d** illustrates, pedestrian/individual litter was the most common source of litter found during the survey. Seventy three percent of the sites surveyed were affected by this source of litter. Cowal and Kintyre (90%) with Islay (48%) had the highest and lowest percentage presences of pedestrian litter.

Animal faeces affected 3% of the sites surveyed, which shows a 4% drop from the November 2007 survey. Kintyre (10%) and Mull (6%) had the highest presence of animal faeces. Business waste was found in 2% of sites surveyed. The highest percentage presences were found in Mull (6%) and Lorn (5%).

## 2.4 Types of litter

This section considers the composition of litter found in the sites surveyed within the Argyll & Bute Council area. The following types of litter are generally found to be the most prevalent, therefore were assessed for their absence or presence:

- Smoking related litter
- Drinks related litter
- Confectionery related litter
- Fast food litter

**Figure 2e Distribution of litter types in Argyll and Bute Council area**

	<i>Smoking Related</i>	<i>Drinks Related</i>	<i>Confectionery Related</i>	<i>Fast Food packaging</i>
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
<b>Overall</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>7</b>
Bute	25	8	50	4
Cowal	86	48	62	14
Helensburgh	52	22	50	4
Islay	43	26	39	4
Kintyre	81	29	24	14
Lorn	45	35	45	5
Mid Argyll	59	12	53	12
Mull	53	0	35	6

As the above table shows, smoking related litter was the most common type of litter found during the survey. Overall, 54% of the sites surveyed throughout the Argyll & Bute Council area were affected by this type of litter. All areas had this type of litter present with Cowal (86%), Kintyre (81%) and Mid Argyll (59%) having the highest presences.

The next most commonly found type of litter was confectionery related litter, which affected 46% of the transects surveyed throughout the Argyll & Bute Council area. Cowal (62%), Mid Argyll (53%) and Helensburgh and Bute (50%), had the highest percentage presence of this type of litter. Drinks related litter was found in 23% of sites overall. Cowal (48%), Lorn (35%) and Kintyre (29%) had the highest recorded presence of this type of litter.

Fast food packaging was recorded in 7% of all sites throughout Argyll and Bute. Cowal and Kintyre (14%) along with Mid Argyll (12%) had the greatest presence of fast food litter.

## 2.5 Adverse Environmental Quality Indicators (AEQIs)

This section summarises various factors affecting the quality of the environment within the surveyed sites in Argyll & Bute Council area.

The Adverse Environmental Quality Indicators (AEQIs) surveyed were as follows:

- Dog fouling
- Vandalism
- Graffiti
- Weeds
- Detritus
- Gum
- Fly-posting
- Fly-tipping

**Figure 2f** Distribution of AEQI's in Argyll and Bute Council area

	<i>Dog fouling (%)</i>	<i>Vand-alism (%)</i>	<i>Graffiti (%)</i>	<i>Weeds (%)</i>	<i>Detritus (%)</i>	<i>Gum (%)</i>	<i>Fly posting (%)</i>	<i>Fly tipping (%)</i>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Bute	4	0	0	38	67	4	0	0
Cowal	0	0	0	48	95	0	0	0
Helensburgh	0	0	0	52	92	0	0	2
Islay	0	0	0	17	39	0	0	0
Kintyre	10	0	0	38	14	5	0	0
Lorn	5	0	0	10	15	5	0	0
Mid Argyll	0	0	0	18	6	0	0	0
Mull	6	6	0	6	65	6	0	0

As the above table shows, detritus was the most frequent Adverse Environmental Quality Indicator found during the survey, with 56% of the sites surveyed being affected. Cowal (95%), Helensburgh (92%) and Bute (67%) had the highest presence of this indicator. Weeds were the next most common Adverse Environmental Quality Indicator, recorded in

33% of sites, throughout Argyll and Bute. Weeds were particularly prevalent in Helensburgh (52%) followed by Cowal (48%), with Kintyre and Bute both recording a 38% presence.

Dog fouling was the next most commonly found Adverse Environmental Quality Indicator. Three percent of the sites surveyed had dog fouling present. Kintyre had the highest percentage presence of dog fouling with 10%, followed by Mull at 6% and Lorn 5%.

Chewing gum was found in 2% of sites. Mull had the highest percentage presence of gum at 6% closely followed by Kintyre and Lorn with 5%.

Vandalism, graffiti, fly-posting and fly-tipping were not found in any significant presences throughout Argyll and Bute.

## **2.6 Litter Bins**

Fourteen litter bins were observed in the 193 sites surveyed, representing 7% coverage. Two of these bins were found to be overflowing, these were found at:

- The Avenue, Inverary, Mid Argyll
- School Street, Bowmore, Islay

# SECTION B - COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS RESULTS

## 3.1 Comparison of cleanliness indices

The following tables show how the cleanliness index results obtained from this survey in October 2008 compare with the previous validation surveys in November 2007, November and August 2005, October 2004, May 2004, October 2003, February 2003, May 2002, March and November 2001 and February and May 2000, as well as with the previous results obtained by Argyll & Bute Council's own survey staff.

This is the thirteenth validation survey carried out by Keep Scotland Beautiful in relation to Argyll & Bute Council's Cleanliness Index Monitoring System.

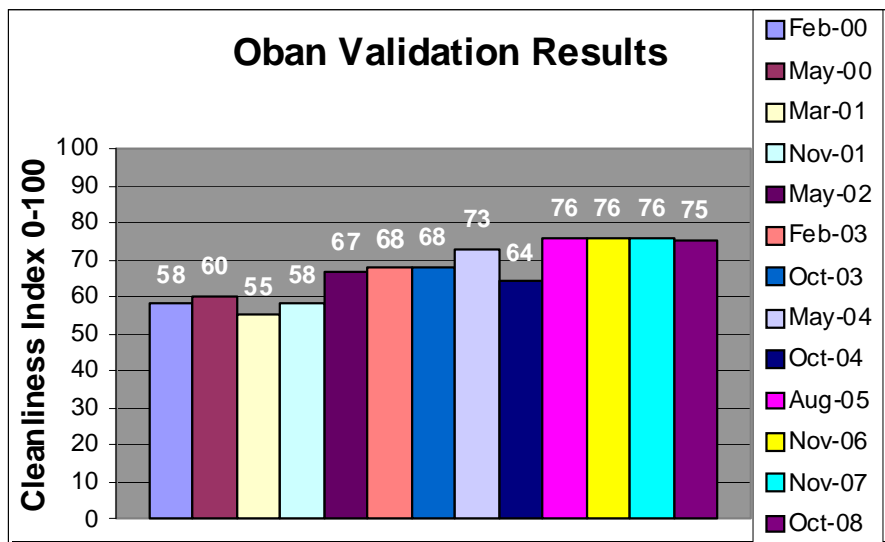
**Figure 3a** Cleanliness Monitoring results provided monthly by Argyll and Bute Council Officers in 2008

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>
Islay	67	67	67	-	-	67	-	-	67	67
Bute	64	69	67	73	62	71	69	67	64	-
Cowal	67	75	69	69	83	67	72	67	79	-
Mid Argyll	-	-	80	71	90	81	79	-	86	76
Mull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Helensburgh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kintyre	75	75	76	78	78	-	80	73	75	80
Lorn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Figure 3a** provides the cleanliness index scores compiled by the officers of Argyll and Bute Council in each geographic area.

### 3.11 Oban

The following graph shows the pattern of cleanliness indices from the validation surveys carried out since February 2000 by Keep Scotland Beautiful.

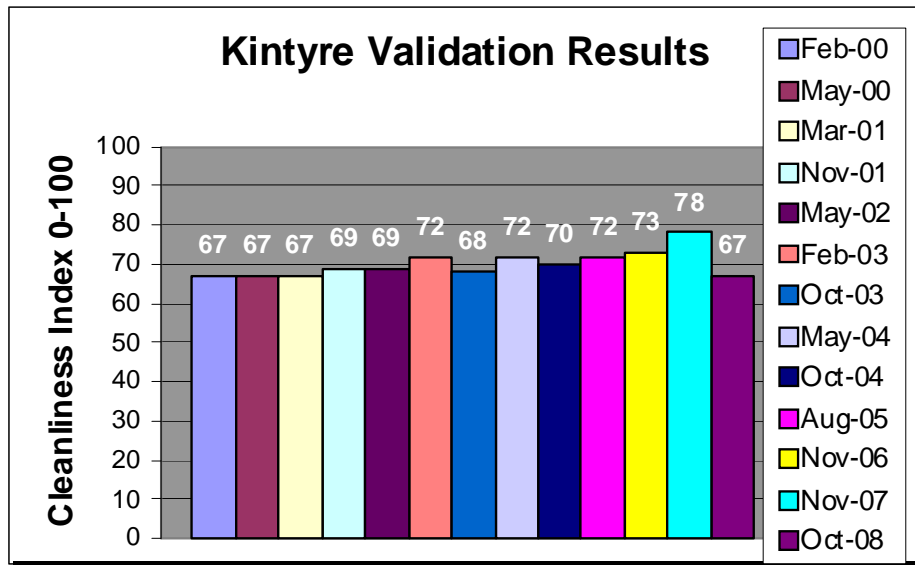


As the above graph shows, the validation survey results for Oban have seen a steady increase in cleanliness index from a low of 55 in March 2001 to a high of 76 during the validation surveys in November 2006 and 2007, apart from the drop in cleanliness index in October 2004. This latest result of 75 demonstrates that a good overall standard of cleanliness is being achieved in the Oban area, albeit a drop of 1 index point was recorded from the previous survey.



### 3.12 Kintyre

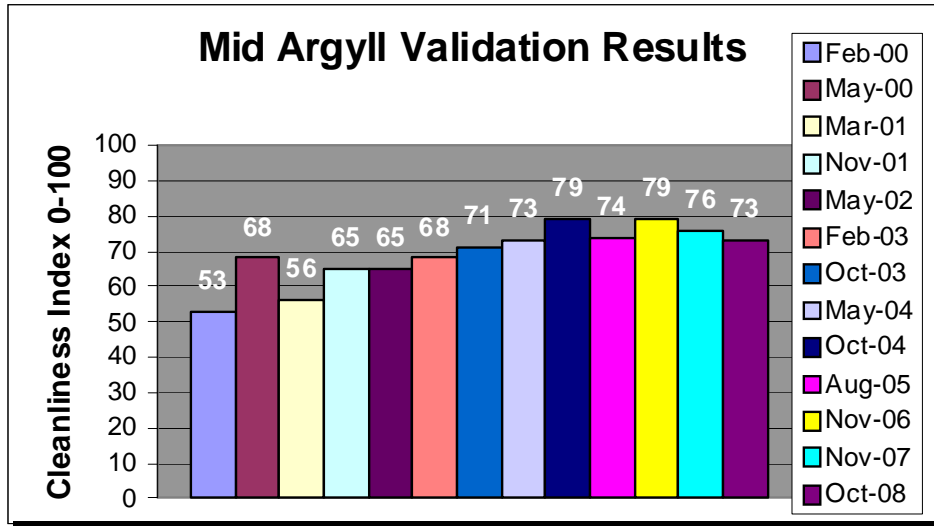
The following graph shows the pattern in cleanliness indices from the validation surveys carried out by Keep Scotland Beautiful since February 2000.



As the above graph illustrates, the validation surveys that have taken place in Kintyre have all shown a satisfactory level of cleanliness, with all validation surveys meeting the standards laid down in the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2006. The validation results are very consistent in the high sixties and low seventies, the October 2008 validation cleanliness index of 67 is eleven index points lower than the November 2007 survey. The cleanliness in Kintyre is meeting the minimum standard set by the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2006.

### 3.13 Mid Argyll

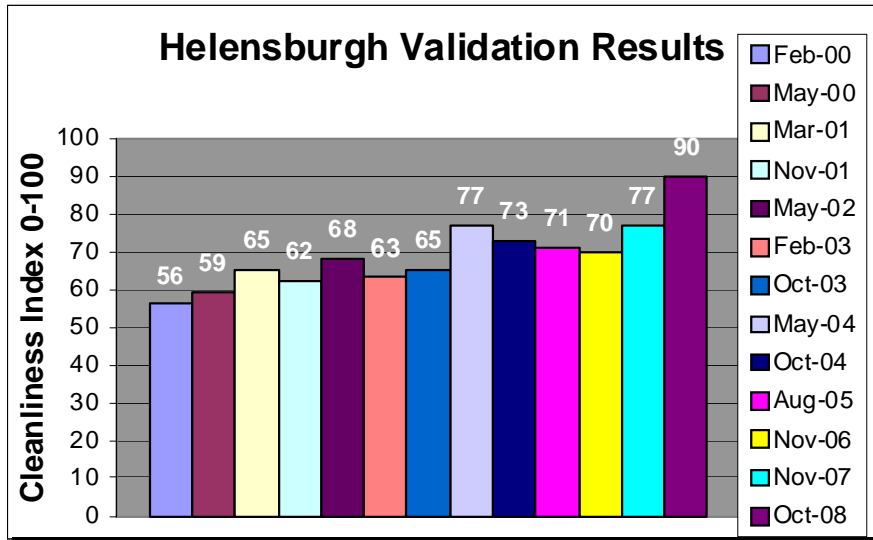
The following graph shows the pattern in cleanliness indices from the validation surveys carried out by Keep Scotland Beautiful since February 2000.



As the above graph shows, the cleanliness indices obtained by the validation surveys in Mid Argyll since October 2003 have increased to a good overall standard of cleanliness. The cleanliness index has ranged from a low of 53 during the February 2000 survey to a high of 79 during the October 2004 and November 2007 surveys. A cleanliness index of 73 was observed during the October 2008 survey. This demonstrates that Mid Argyll is achieving a good overall standard of cleanliness.

### 3.14 Helensburgh

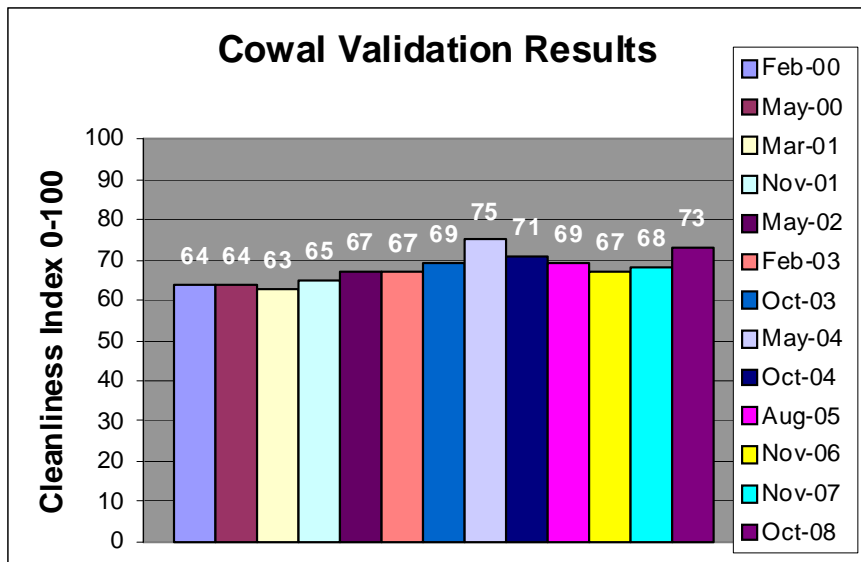
The following graph shows the pattern in cleanliness indices for the Helensburgh area from the validation surveys carried out by Keep Scotland Beautiful since February 2000.



As the above graph demonstrates, the trend for cleanliness levels in Helensburgh has been variable. All the cleanliness scores since November 2004 have been above 70. The cleanliness levels started off at a low of 56 during the first validation survey carried out during February 2000 and reached a high of 77 during the validation survey in May 2004 and the October 2008 survey. The latest validation survey in October 2008 highlights that Helensburgh, with a cleanliness index of 90, continues to achieve a very good overall standard of cleanliness.

### 3.15 Cowal

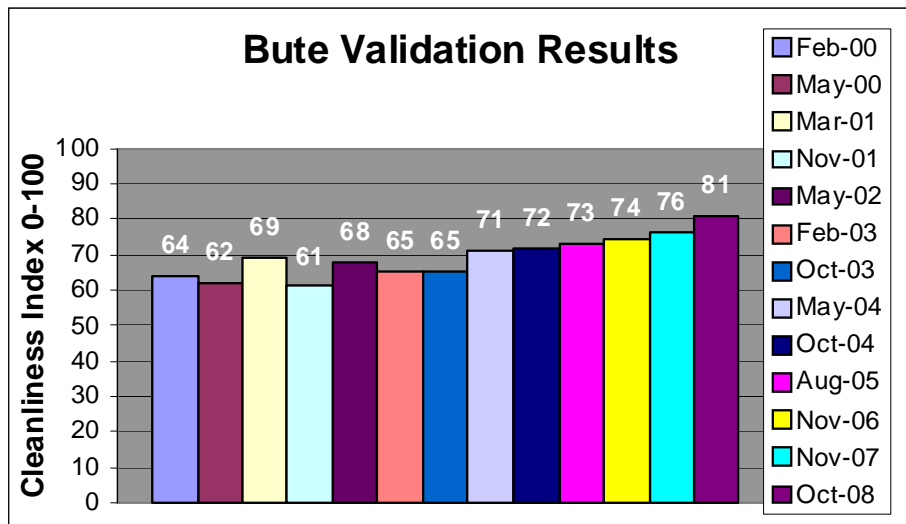
The following graph shows the pattern in cleanliness indices for the Cowal area from the validation surveys that have been carried out by Keep Scotland Beautiful since February 2000.



As the above graph illustrates, the first four validation surveys in Cowal were just below the minimum standard required of 67 set by the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2006. Since May 2002 the cleanliness scores have been in the high 60's or low 70's in the Cowal area. The last three surveys have shown a steady increase in cleanliness index from 67 to 73. This demonstrates that Cowal is achieving a good overall standard of cleanliness.

### 3.16 Bute

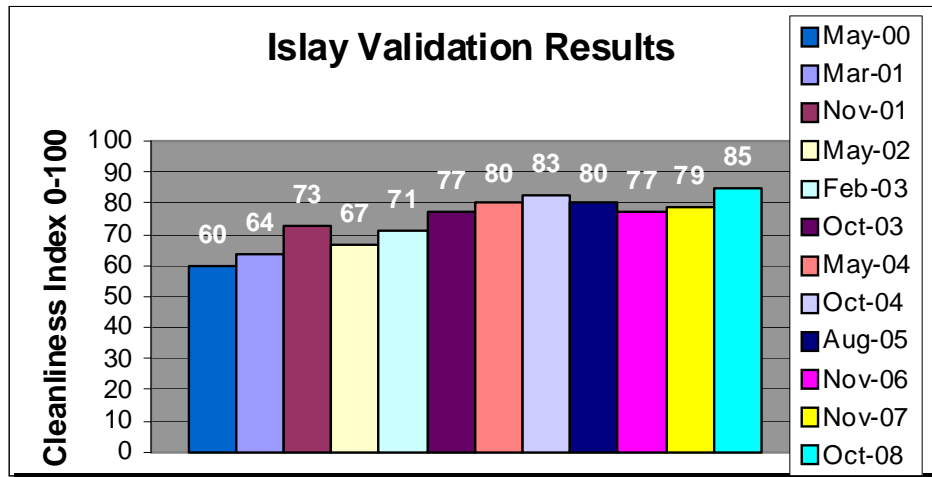
The following graph demonstrates the pattern of cleanliness indices in the validation surveys that have taken place in Bute. These surveys have been conducted by Keep Scotland Beautiful since February 2000.



The above graph demonstrates that the cleanliness indices in Bute have seen an overall improvement from the first survey in February 2000. Since May 2004 the Bute area has achieved a cleanliness index of above 71 which shows a good overall standard of cleanliness. The previous five surveys since May 2004 have all been in the low to mid 70's. In the October 2008 survey the Bute area achieved a cleanliness index of 81.

### 3.17 Islay

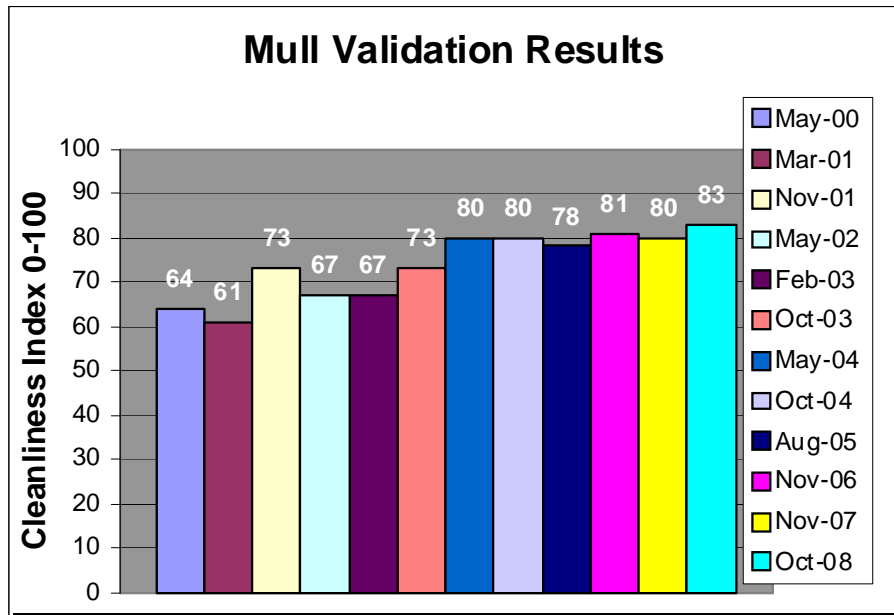
The following graph shows the pattern in cleanliness indices from the validation surveys that have taken place in Islay to date. The surveys have been carried out by Keep Scotland Beautiful since May 2000.



As the above graph highlights, the overall trend in cleanliness standards in Islay is one of considerable improvement. The cleanliness index in May 2000 was 60, the last nine validation surveys on Islay have all exceeded the minimum standard of 67 set by the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2006. All the surveys since October 2003 indicate that a very good overall standard of cleanliness is being achieved in the Islay area. The latest cleanliness index in Islay was 85.

### 3.18 Mull

The following graph shows the pattern in cleanliness indices obtained from the validation surveys that have taken place on Mull since May 2000.

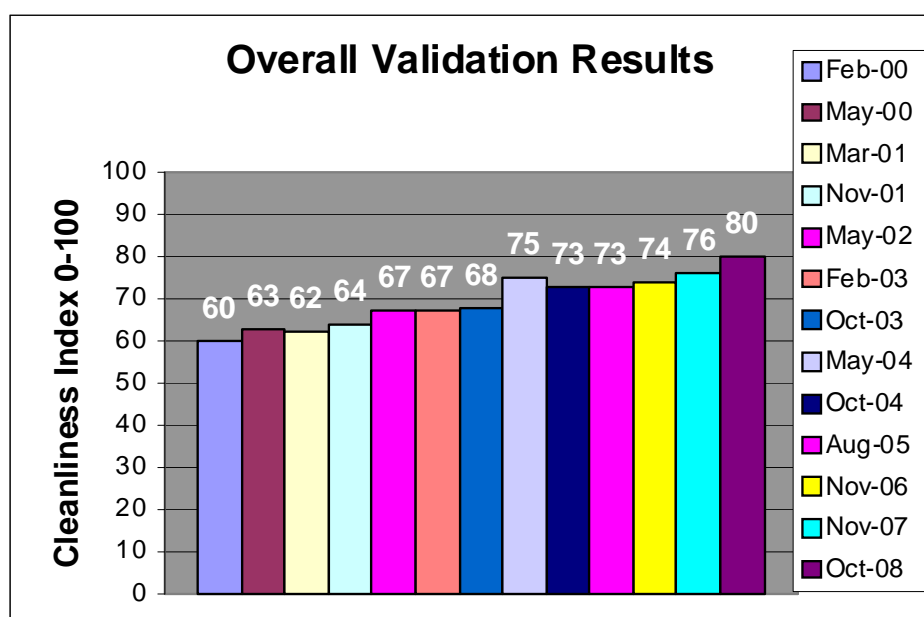


As the above graph shows, the overall trend in cleanliness standards is one of improvement. The March 2001 validation survey carried out on Mull showed that the cleanliness levels at that time were up to 6 index points below the level of 67 required by the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2006. In comparison, the last six validation surveys on Mull have shown that a very good overall standard of cleanliness is being achieved. The cleanliness index from those previous six surveys were all in the high 70's to low 80's. In the October 2008 survey Mull achieved a cleanliness index of 83, demonstrating a very good overall standard of cleanliness is being attained.

### 3.19 Overall

As the graph below shows, the overall cleanliness index for the whole of the Argyll & Bute Council area has ranged from a low of 60 during the first validation carried out in February 2000 to a high of 80 during the latest validation survey in October 2008. The result in October 2008 has increased by two cleanliness index points (80) from the November 2007 survey. Argyll and Bute consistently in the past seven validation surveys, since October 2003, has exceeded the minimum standard of 67 required by the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2006. Argyll and Bute Council continues to maintain a very good overall standard of cleanliness.

These results are very commendable and show an overall trend of steady improvement of cleansing standards for the whole of the Argyll & Bute Council area, which is very encouraging. The latest survey has also shown that overall, Argyll & Bute Council continues to meet the minimum cleanliness standards laid down in the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2006. The cleanliness index of 80 remains thirteen index points above the minimum standard required of 67. A 20 point cleanliness index change has been observed from the original survey in May 2000 (60) to the latest survey in October 2008 (80). The October 2008 cleanliness index of 80 is the highest attained since May 2000. Future monthly monitoring should be continued to ensure that this new improved level of cleanliness is maintained and, where possible, improved further through implementing the recommendations laid out subsequently in this report.





# CONCLUSION

The results of this survey indicate that Argyll & Bute Council is exceeding the minimum standards of cleanliness expected from the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2006 and is achieving a good overall standard of cleanliness. Over the thirteen validation surveys carried out to date, the general trend for cleansing standards has been one of continuous improvement, which is very encouraging. It is hoped that this new improved level of cleanliness can be maintained, and improved upon, throughout the Argyll & Bute Council area. The October 2008 cleanliness index of 80 has increased by four index points when compared to the previous survey, carried out in November 2007 and is the highest cleanliness index in the thirteen validation surveys carried out to date.

All the geographic areas throughout Argyll and Bute were above the minimum standard of 67 as laid down by the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2006. Helensburgh (90), Islay (85) and Mull (83) all achieved excellent cleanliness indices and a very good overall standard of cleanliness.

Twenty seven percent of sites achieved a grade A standard whilst 3% were observed as being of a grade C standard and no sites were recorded as being of a grade D standard. Twelve percent of sites were of a grade B+ standard with 58% found to be of a grade B standard.

Ninety seven percent of streets in Argyll and Bute were of an acceptable Grade A, B+ or B standard with 3% of sites of an unacceptable Grade C or D standard.

Smoking related litter was the most frequently found type of litter within the Argyll and Bute Council area (54%). Pedestrian litter was the most common litter source observed (73%), with detritus the most prevalent adverse environmental quality indicator, present in 56% of all sites.

There are a number of factors that should be taken into consideration when attempting to consolidate and improve the cleanliness standards throughout Argyll and Bute; these are set out in the next section.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are based on the findings of the October 2008 survey of the Argyll & Bute Council area. The information from the survey presented and analysed in this report, can be used as a means towards a number of ends: to establish compliance with the relevant legislation, identify problem areas with regard to cleanliness and other environmental quality indicators and use this to target resources, to monitor progress, to compare external validation results with internal monitoring and to campaign effectively.

## **Grade C sites**

Three percent of sites were found to be of a grade C standard overall. Grade C sites were found in Kintyre (10%), Lorn (10%), Mid Argyll (6%) and Islay (4%). In most cases accumulations of litter were observed to be present in channels indicating that perhaps the street sweeper has been unable to gain access to areas due to on-street parking and other obstructions eg sandwich boards. It is recommended that such areas are monitored and remedial action taken where required.

## **Smoking Related Litter**

Smoking related litter was the most prevalent litter type found within the Argyll and Bute Council area, with 54% of sites affected by this type of litter.

Smoking related litter is consistently the most prevalent litter type found throughout the Argyll and Bute Council area. The smoking ban in public places may exacerbate the smoking related litter problem. Due to the consistently high levels of smoking related litter dropped by pedestrians and other individuals in the Council area, it is recommended that a campaign is devised to encourage smokers to become more responsible about the way in which they dispose of smoking related litter – particularly cigarette butts. Secondly encouraging the use of personal ashtrays when formal disposable bins are not available, and ensure these are easily available to the public.

It is also important that local authorities consider appropriately placed and designed cigarette disposal bins and utilise campaign promotional materials (posters etc) to convey

the message to smokers, along with encouraging businesses and other bodies to increase the provision of disposal facilities for both employees and customers.

### **Detritus**

Detritus was the most frequent Adverse Environmental Quality Indicator found during the survey, with 56% of the sites surveyed being affected. Cowal (95%), Helensburgh (92%) and Bute (67%) had the highest presence of this indicator.

Detritus needs to be controlled for several reasons, especially on public footpaths and roads, where clear visibility and undamaged surfaces are imperative. They also need controlling to keep drainage channels clear and prevent trapped litter.

### **Litter Bins**

Throughout the survey two litter bins were found to be overflowing these were found at:

- The Avenue, Inverary, Mid Argyll
- School Street, Bowmore, Islay

Consideration should be given to the type of litter bins provided throughout the local authority area. It is beneficial to have a consistent litter bin design. Size should be carefully considered to minimise the possibility of bins overflowing. It is important that litter can't escape easily in windy conditions, that birds or other animals can't access the litter, and that the litter bin is not easily blocked up with larger items such as pizza boxes, etc. It is also important when siting litter bins to ensure that they cannot be easily vandalised or knocked over.

# APPENDICES

## **APPENDIX 1 Supporting photos**

## **APPENDIX 2 Data**

**Cowal**



**Ferguslie Street**

**Helensburgh**



**McKenzie Avenue**



**Station Road**



**Park Avenue**





West Clyde Street

## Islay



Portnahaven - Kilchiaran



Winston Road



B833



School Street



# Kintyre



A83 Muasdale



Longrow South



Hall Street



McCallum Street



High Askomill Road



Princes Street



Sealand Housing Scheme Road



Tayinloan Housing Scheme Road



The Esplanade

## Lorn



Achaleven Road



Albert Lane



Breadalbane Street





Breadalbane Street



Corran Brae



Deirdrie Road



Glenshellach Terrace



Iona Drive





John Street



John Street continued



Lochavullin Road



Lochavullin Road continued



Lynn Road



**Mid Argyll**



**East Bank Road**



**Fisher Row**



**West Bank Road**



**The Avenue**

**Bute**



Argyle Place



Columshill Place



Creek Drive



Ardbeg Road



A886 – Rhubodach



# Mull



A849 Bunesan



Main Street



Albert Street



Victoria Street



Breadalbane Street



Ledaig Branch Road