



QUENIBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

LITTER PICKING POLICY

Introduction

Where we live matters. Cleaner streets, parks and open spaces provide the backbone for strong and thriving communities. It is important that you keep yourself safe while litter picking. This policy gives instruction for the volunteer litter picking team:

1. Protective clothing and equipment

- Wear suitable footwear and clothing
- Wear gloves
- Use the litter pickers and High Visibility (hi-vis) vests provided
- Bags

2. Other things you are likely to need

- Water
- Sun cream and hats in warm weather

3. Dangerous materials

Volunteers should not touch or move the items listed below. Instead, please make a note of the location and report it to the Parish Clerk.

- Drug related litter/hypodermic syringes
- Unidentified substance or containers or liquid
- Asbestos
- Large heavy items
- Any other potentially hazardous item

If there is any doubt about an item, do not touch it and let the Parish Clerk know.

4. Hygiene

To avoid illness, we strongly recommend you;

- Wear heavy-duty, protective gloves at all times
- Cover any cuts (however minor) with surgical tape or a waterproof plaster
- Keep hands away from mouth and eyes while litter-picking
- Wash hands and forearms before eating, drinking, smoking or going to the toilet

5. Other safety considerations

- Volunteers under the age of 18 should be supervised by a parent or a responsible adult
- Be extremely cautious when litter picking at the side of roads

- Restrict litter picking to locations with pavements
- Carry out litter picking facing oncoming traffic
- Remember, volunteers must wear hi-visibility waistcoats and only litter pick in clear daylight
- Do not attempt to clear litter from the road
- Prevent scratches and eye injuries by not reaching into hedges or undergrowth
- If an item cannot be reached with the litter picker, then leave it
- Do not litter pick close to rivers or steep slopes
- Consider wildlife. Do not disturb animals or birds that may be nesting and watch out for bee and wasp nests
- Stick to areas that you are allowed to enter or obtain land-owner permission

It is recommended that before a litter pick begins a visual site inspection and risk assessment is carried out. This will help to identify potential risks and hazards. If there is any doubt about the safety of a site, then please do not carry out the litter pick.

6. Collection and disposal of waste

The Parish Council can supply sacks for litter; the sacks will need to be deposited in the Bakers Waste container at the Village Hall Carpark.

7. Disclaimer

Volunteers should not participate in litter picks unless they understand and accept that participation is entirely at their own risk. Volunteers are not working for, or on behalf of, Queniborough Parish Council; therefore, the Council will not be held responsible for any loss, damage or inconvenience caused as a result of the actions and omissions of volunteers or this guidance.