

## **Litter Picking Policy and Risk Assessment**

Our community matters. Cleaner streets, parks and green spaces provide the backbone for strong and thriving communities. This policy gives instructions for our staff and any volunteers.

### **Protective clothing and equipment**

- Wear suitable footwear and clothing at all times;
- Wear gloves at all times;
- Use the litter pickers and reflective waistcoats provided.

### **Dangerous materials**

Do 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 item;
- Dog waste;
- Any other potentially hazardous item.

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

### **Other safety considerations**

- 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. 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.
- 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. 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.

### **Collection and disposal of waste**

The Parish Council will supply sacks for litter; the sacks will need to be deposited in an appropriate bin.

### Risk Assessment

The Parish Council has undertaken the following risk assessment. and introduced control measures to mitigate the identified risks. However, no activity is completely without risk and all participants are reminded they have a responsibility for their own wellbeing and not to place themselves, or others, in harm's way by taking unnecessary risks.

Hazard	Probability	Severity	Risk Rating	Safe Working Practice
Slips, trips, falls, RTA's	2	4	8	Work should be carried out facing on-coming traffic. All areas should be assessed for slips and uneven ground. Hi-Viz to be worn at all times. If lone working a mobile phone should be carried at all times
Sharp Objects – Glass, needles, nails etc. e.g. Needle stick injury leading to Hepatitis B	3	3	9	Needles must not be picked up or touched under any circumstances. Location should be noted and WNC Customer Services contacted <a href="tel:03001267000">0300 126 7000</a> .
Dog Fouling	5	5	5	Do not pick up or clear
Extremes of Weather	4	1	4	Only work in clear dry conditions and take regular breaks and drinks if weather is hot
Back strain from heavy lifting	1	2	2	Use litter pick at all times. Do not attempt to move heavy items. Do not overload litter sacks.
Eye Injury from twigs/branches	1	2	2	Exercise caution and use litter pick
Weil's Disease	1	1	1	Cover cuts with waterproof plaster. Always wash hands.

Risk Rating 1-3 low 4-10 medium 10+ unacceptable

Reviewed May 2024

Next Review May 2025