

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council



Guidance for volunteer litter Pickers



Making The Difference

Thank you for volunteering to litter pick in Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, whether you are part of a group or taking part as an individual.

The role you are playing in keep our towns and villages tidy and litter-free is hugely appreciated, not only by the Borough council, but by your neighbours and our communities.

It's really important you keep yourself safe while litter picking and this guidance has been designed to help you do just that.

There are also some tips and advice that will ensure we are all working together to reduce litter in our Borough and enable the Borough council to support you as much as we can.

Our support

To get you started we can provide you with the following equipment, free of charge.

- Hi visibility vest
- Litter picker
- Bags.

If you'd like to register as a volunteer litter picker and apply for new equipment, please contact streetscene@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

Other things you are likely to need

- Gloves
- Suitable shoes and clothing
- Water
- Sun cream and hats in warm weather.

Registering your litter pick and disposing of litter

We want to support your litter pick and work with you to ensure the litter collected can be disposed of properly. Wherever possible we encourage you to take the rubbish you collect home with you and put it in your black bin. If you are able to safely separate out recyclable materials and put these into your recycling containers – even better!

If you as an individual (or as part of group) are planning a bigger litter pick that is likely to result in numerous bags of rubbish that you won't be able to fit into your black bins, please register your pick with us before you start.

This will allow us to arrange a safe and appropriate location for a timely collection.

Register your pick online – it'll only take a few minutes.

Health and safety

We recommend that you avoid:

- Potentially hazardous objects such as unidentified cans or canisters, oil drums and chemical containers
- Sharp objects such as broken glass and disposable BBQs – these should be collected in separate containers not litter bags
- Clinical waste such as needles/syringes – instead please report them to the Borough Council
- Collecting large objects of any kind – stick to items of litter. If you encounter a fly-tip, please report it to the council
- Hazardous areas such as deep or fast-flowing water, steep, slippery or unstable banks, sharp rocks, derelict buildings, busy roads and electric fences (which are identified by yellow warning signs)
- Working alone – try to stay in sight and earshot of others or let someone know where you've gone and when to expect you back.

If you encounter dangerous, poisonous or hazardous items, please contact streetscene@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

Heavy lifting

- Lifting heavy items could be hazardous and should be avoided. If you encounter a fly-tip you can report this on the HBBC website.

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.

Litter picking on roads

Litter picking along any road can be dangerous, especially those that are busy or have high speed limits. We strongly recommend you avoid picking any road where:

- Traffic is heavy
- The speed limit in the area you intend to pick is more than 30 mph
- Road conditions are such that visibility is restricted by obstructions in the road such as overhanging trees and the contours of the road
- There are blind bends
- Weather dictates it would be difficult for drivers and litter pickers to see each other, i.e. sunlight low in the sky, rain or fog, dusk or dawn
- Where the verge has its own hazards, for example is especially narrow, rough underfoot or steep banked
- Where there is no street lighting
- Where you are unable to face oncoming traffic to pick litter
- There are distractions such as children or pets that prevent you from concentrating on the safety aspects of litter picking
- You have not told someone of your exact whereabouts and expected return time
- You do not have correct Personal Protective Equipment in place including hi vis and suitable footwear
- You are wearing sound restricting hats, earmuffs or headphones.

Use of land

Avoid litter picking on private land as you need permission from the landowner first. Litter on private land is the responsibility of the landowner to dispose of.

Wherever possible stick to public land for your litter picks.

Children

- Children should be accompanied by a responsible adult when taking part in a litter pick
- Before you start, make sure children understand which items are potentially dangerous and should not be picked up. Teach children that if they are in any doubt they should ask a grown up before picking the litter up
- It's important that children are provided with gloves and wear suitable clothing and footwear.



Personnel Safety

We do not recommend that you approach members of the public to challenge inappropriate behaviour such as dog fouling littering or any ASB related behaviour. Ignore this behaviour and report it if necessary either to your local authority or the police if a confrontation occurs. Walk away to reduce the

risk of further confrontation.

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, a local authority; therefore, we will not be held responsible for any loss, damage or inconvenience caused because of the actions and omissions of volunteers or this guidance.

Covid-19

Always follow the latest Government guidance if you are planning a litter pick during the pandemic.

Please do not litter pick if anyone within your household or your social bubble has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days and/or anyone within your household or your social bubble has displayed symptoms associated with Covid-19 within the last 14 days.