



**Basingstoke  
and Deane**



### **Herriard Parish Council**

**As a Volunteer you must read these guidance notes prior to venturing out to collect litter. You must then sign the attendance sheet to confirm that you have read and fully understand these guidance notes.**

#### **Volunteer Litter Picking Guidance Notes**

**To make this event as enjoyable and safe as possible we ask that the following health and safety guidance be taken into consideration. Please make sure you are aware of the risks before you take part.**

#### **General Site Safety and Inspection**

- Do not enter any area where works are restricted, are already taking place (for example road works) or where the public do not have a right to entry.
- Litter picking of areas beside roads should be carried out with extreme caution, due to the risk created by vehicles.
- Litter picking should be restricted to only where there are wide verges or pavements, suitable for pedestrians, and should be carried out facing oncoming traffic.
- It is essential that volunteers are visible to road users, for that reason, hi-visibility waistcoats must be worn and litter picks should only take place in clear daylight.
- Volunteers should not attempt to clear litter from the carriageway.
- If volunteers are litter picking on roads they should work on one side to avoid excess crossing.
- Avoid reaching into hedges or undergrowth in such a way as to expose the face, eyes and skin to scratches from thorns or branches.
- Avoid working next to rivers or steep slopes as there is an increased risk of slips and falls.
- Be mindful of wildlife. In the spring time avoid disturbing animals and birds that may be nesting and in the summer time be wary of wasp and bee nests. Volunteers should avoid areas contaminated by rats: Leptospirosis (Weil's disease) is a very rare infection carried in rats' urine and can be fatal.

To minimise risk of an accident if an item of litter cannot be safely reached with a litter picker, leave it.

Volunteers have a duty towards themselves, fellow volunteers and the public to work safely. If there is any doubt about the safety of a site or material, then it should be avoided.



**We suggest the following equipment is used at all times when carrying out a litter pick:**

- Gloves - to remove the risk of exposure to hazardous materials.
- Reflective hi-visibility vests/jackets - to make sure volunteers are highly visible to both traffic and pedestrians.
- Litter pickers - to reduce risk of injury sustained from repetitive bending and remove risk of any direct contact with litter/Hazardous materials.
- Appropriate footwear - Strong boots/shoes which have adequate grip and support, reducing the risk of any slips/falls. This is especially important in winter months when ice may pose a threat.
- Mobile phones (where possible) & First aid kits - in case of emergency.
- Suitable outdoor/weather appropriate clothing - as not to expose any bare areas of skin to hazards; whether that is from noxious or dangerous materials or the weather itself (sunburn)
- We advise all volunteers to take bottled water as to guard against dehydration during the event.

### **Dangerous Materials**

Please treat all of the following materials with caution and be aware that this is not an exhaustive list:

- Broken glass and Nails - Avoid direct hand contact; remove using a litter picker and dispose of in a solid container NOT a plastic bag.
- Drug related litter/hypodermics - Needles should under no circumstances be picked/touched.
- Suspect materials - Batteries, asbestos, miscellaneous chemicals or Fly-tipping should not be touched.

If you come across any of these or other materials which may be dangerous please refrain from touching, record the location and inform the Council who will arrange removal.

### **Lifting and Handling Materials**

Volunteers should be aware of the risk of injury by carrying bags of collected litter and attempting to lift and carry heavy materials. To avoid injury, the following basic principles of manual handling should be applied:

- Use litter pickers to prevent constant bending and stretching.
- Make sure an item is safe to handle with no sharp edges or noxious contents.
- Decide if an item can be safely moved either by one or two people.
- Only try to move an item if this can be done so without straining.