

Litter Crew is an informal collective of volunteers who litter pick in and around Wheatley Parish, Oxfordshire.

Aim:

- To support the parish workers in keeping Wheatley clear of litter, including the boundaries to neighbouring parishes. Parish grounds crew tend to litter pick in the area where they are working anyway and in response to requests from the community.

Equipment:

- Jane has 10 pickers + 5 Hi-viz vests + SODCBiffa bags plus the possibility of an additional 10 litter picking sets via an SODC grant.
- Members to retain equipment until needed for another member - holder list to be kept

Rules of engagement

- Operate as individuals at our own risk
- Flexible arrangement for members to opt in:
 - ad-hoc system eg members post hotspots as they occur and liaise amongst themselves who does what
 - specific days to meet up eg weekly, monthly to cover certain areas
- Risk assessment is part of this document. To be read by members annually.
- Preferably work in twos or threes - especially near busy roads
- Wear hi-viz
- Volunteers take photos before and after picking whenever possible and share them with the WhatsApp group. This is to document the group's activities and to encourage others to participate.
- If possible pick up clean cans and bottles to be taken home for recycling in kerbside green bin
- Use designated purple SODC bags for waste items (including contaminated recyclables) - obtainable from Jane or Lucy (Assistant Parish Clerk, also a member of the Litter Crew Whatsapp group)
- Leave filled bags at a roadside litter bin for SODC to collect Monday-Friday (eg Station Road: The Sidings; High Street: near Cornfields; London Road: opposite King's Arms or by bus stop near ASDA fuel station)
- Any dangerous items eg glass, sharps report to Lucy for PC team to deal with

Communication:

- Facebook page for conveying information to the whole group eg risk assessment, rules of engagement
- Use main Chat to notify members of hotspots, post photos and inform group of what areas have been covered
- Individuals could have separate Chat about nitty-gritty details not relating to the group as a whole so as not to bombard everyone
- Occasionally meet up socially as a group: Saturday 5 March 11 am proposed (same time as Refill shop at Merry Bells)
- Email neighbouring Clerks introducing LitterCrew WhatsApp group and invitation to join as a joint effort on boundary areas [Jane]

Risk Assessment - Litter crew - Litter picking

As an informal collective, Litter Crew **does not have public liability insurance** and all volunteers must take **personal responsibility for their safety and wellbeing**.

Assessors Names: Wendy Stanton and Jane Cotton

Assessment Date: 11/08/2023

Review date: Annually

What are the hazards	Who might be harmed and how	What are you already doing	What further action is necessary	Action by whom	Action by when	Done
Lack of information and awareness	Volunteers	All volunteers should read this risk assessment in order to be aware of the potential dangers and suitable action to prevent harm.	None	Volunteers	As time of joining Litter Crew and annually thereafter,	
Manual handling	Volunteers	Volunteers to be aware of their own limitations.	Assess your own fitness	Volunteers		

		<p>Do not lift heavy items found during the clean up. Large items to be reported to FixMyStreet or the parish Clerk.</p> <p>Volunteers with pre-existing injuries are not to lift bags or heavy items.</p> <p>Stop immediately if an injury occurs during litter-picking and seek medical assistance..</p>	before and during litter picking.			
Working near roads and car parks	Volunteers	<p>Hi-vis to be worn at all times. If possible work with a buddy to have one person watching for hazards while the other litter picks.</p> <p>Be aware of speed limits and any known hazards, always focus when crossing streets and be aware of surroundings at all times</p> <p>Be aware of cars potentially trying to park, maintain vigilance, give warning to others of approaching vehicles</p> <p>Children not to pick litter from the road but to remain on pavements and paths. Children to remain under supervision and in sight of a responsible adult at all times</p>	Check for any unusual hazards.	Volunteers		
Slips, trips	Volunteers	Wear supportive and slip-resistant	Assess the	Volunteers		

and falls		<p>footwear Take care when negotiating property steps Observe ground and be aware of potential trip hazards If in doubt don't carry on if an area looks slippery or dangerous</p> <p>Take care when pavements are slippery from rain, leaves, ice, snow, etc.</p>	area for hazards before litter-picking.			
<p>Sunburn</p> <p>Extreme cold</p> <p>Wet or windy weather</p>	Volunteers	<p>Wear suitable clothing (gloves at all times, sleeves and trousers)</p> <p>In hot weather, wear hat Apply sunblock before beginning the activity and re-apply as required</p> <p>In cold, wet or windy weather wear suitable warm and/or waterproof clothing</p> <p>Wear thick socks and sturdy boots or shoes</p>	Suspend litter picking if weather is inclement.	Volunteers		
<p>Cuts and grazes</p> <p>Stings or bites from vegetation or insects</p>	Volunteers	<p>No unprotected feet – wear sturdy shoes, boots or trainers</p> <p>Wear suitable clothing (gloves at all times, sleeves and trousers)</p> <p>All volunteers to use litter-pickers to collect rubbish - NEVER scoop up items by hand Be wary of uneven ground and trip hazards including trailing vegetation</p>	Assess the area for hazards before litter-picking.	Volunteers		
Cuts and	Volunteers	No unprotected feet – wear sturdy	Assess the	Volunteers		

<p>grazes</p> <p>Stings or bites from vegetation or insects</p>		<p>shoes, boots or trainers</p> <p>Wear suitable clothing (gloves at all times, sleeves and trousers)</p> <p>All volunteers to use litter-pickers to collect rubbish - NEVER scoop up items by hand Be wary of uneven ground and trip hazards including trailing vegetation</p>	<p>area for hazards before litter-picking.</p>			
<p>Aggressive dogs</p>	<p>Volunteers</p>	<p>Avoid areas if any evidence of aggressive dogs Volunteers to maintain vigilance for dogs off leads Dog Walkers in vicinity should be greeted and advised of the litter pick and to keep dogs under control</p> <p>Children remain under adult supervision and within sight of adults at all times.</p> <p>Adopt recommended posture if confronted by a dog – do not look in eyes, look down, do not run, pull limbs into body Retreat slowly</p> <p>Visit A&E if bitten or attacked, report the attack to the Police.</p>	<p>Check site for evidence of dogs</p>	<p>Volunteers</p>		