

Great Finborough Parish Council

Litter Picking Policy

General

A Litter Picking Policy provides guidelines for volunteers and organisations on how to safely and effectively collect litter from public and private land, covering safety measures like wearing gloves and using litter pickers, permission requirements for private land, appropriate clothing and weather considerations, handling hazardous items, proper waste disposal, and guidance for reporting issues like hazardous waste. These policies are often provided to ensure the safety of volunteers and the public and is to be used in conjunction with the relevant Risk Assessment for this operation.

Planning

- **Get Permission:** Always obtain permission from the landowner before litter picking on private land.
- **Contact Your Local Council:** For council-owned land, contact the local authority in advance to understand their specific processes and to arrange waste collection for large quantities of litter.
- **Assess the Location:** Choose locations that are safe and avoid areas with busy roads (generally above 30mph speed limits), waterways, and construction sites.
- **Check the Weather:** Be aware of weather conditions, dress appropriately for warmth, coolness, dryness, and wear sunscreen in summer.
- **Inform Someone:** Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.

Essential Equipment

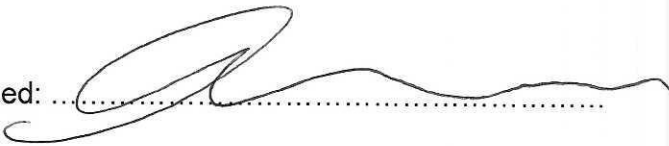
- **Gloves:** Wear heavy-duty, protective gloves at all times.
- **Litter Picker:** Use a litter picker or grabber to avoid direct contact with litter.
- **Safety Vest:** Wear a high-visibility vest or bright clothing, especially near roads.
- **Bags:** Use strong, clear or semi-transparent bags (60-90 litres) for easier identification of contents.
- **Mobile Phone:** Carry a mobile phone for emergencies and communication.

Safety During the Pick

- **Hand Hygiene:** Wash your hands and forearms thoroughly before eating, drinking, or touching your face, and again after litter picking.
- **Avoid Contact:** Do not touch litter with your hands.
- **Handle Hazardous Items Carefully:** Leave items like needles, drug paraphernalia, and unknown hazardous substances untouched and report them to your local council.

Waste Disposal

- **Collect in Bags:** Place collected litter into your strong litter bags.
- **Report Large Amounts:** If you collect a large quantity of litter, arrange for it to be collected by the council's waste disposal team.

Signed: 

Dated: 8th Sep. 2005