



## Volunteer Litter Picking Guide

Where we live matters. Cleaner streets, parks and open spaces provide the backbone for a strong and thriving community. This is a guide for our volunteer litter pickers:

### Protective Clothing and Equipment

- Wear suitable footwear and clothing
- Wear protective gloves
- Hand sanitiser
- Use the litter pickers and hi-visibility waistcoats provided
- Mobile phone

### Dangerous Materials

Volunteers should not touch or move the items listed below. Instead, please make a note of the location, take a photograph (if possible) and report it to the Streetscene Team at Wigan MBC using “My Account” (<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/MyAccount/Report-it-help.aspx>)

- Broken glass
- Drug related litter/hypodermic syringes
- Unidentified substance or liquid
- Asbestos
- Large heavy items
- Faeces
- Any other potentially hazardous item

**If there is any doubt about an item, do not touch it and inform Wigan MBC, as above.**

### Other Safety Considerations

- Volunteers under the age of 16 should be supervised by a parent or a responsible adult
- Wherever possible do not litter pick alone, and let someone know your route
- 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, and avoid roads where speed limit is in excess of 40 mph
- Volunteers must wear hi-visibility waistcoats and 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.
- Do not litter pick close to bodies of water or steep slopes
- Consider wildlife. Do not disturb animals or birds that may be nesting, and watch out for bee and wasp nests.
- Keep to areas that you are allowed to enter, or have the owner’s permission to enter. Do not enter fields with livestock present.
- It is recommended that before an organised litter pick begins a visual inspection and risk assessment is carried out. This will help to identify potential risks and hazards. If there is any doubt about the safety of an area, then please do not carry out the litter pick.

### Collection and Disposal of Waste

We can supply council bags for litter, or use a suitable strong carrier bag. The council bags can be left next to roadside bins where they will be collected by the Streetscene Team. Any item containing a battery, e.g. discarded vapes, **MUST** be collected in a separate bag; discarded gas/nitrous oxide canisters (large and small) **MUST** also be collected in a separate bag. If there is a large number of bags contact the Streetscene Team, as above, with an accurate location and photograph, if possible.

### For Information

Volunteers should not participate in litter picks unless they understand and accept that participation is entirely at their own risk.