

Blidworth Parish Council - Risk assessment



Activity: Litter Picking (by volunteers)

**Assessment date:
October 2021**

**Review date:
October 2022**

Potential /hazards (harm)	Recommended Control Measures	Action Required	Action by who	Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)
<p>Impact from vehicles (cuts / bruises / breaks / possible death)</p>	<p>Litter picking should not be undertaken on highways or within close, unguarded proximity to roads or areas where there are moving vehicles or where the speed limit exceeds 40mph.</p> <p>On roads with a speed limit of up to 40 mph, a sideways safety zone of 0.5 metres from the highway applies and this should not be entered into.</p> <p>Litter picking should only be undertaken where there are footpaths or verges more than 0.5 metres from the highway.</p> <p>All volunteers are to wear hi-viz jackets at all times.</p> <p>Care to be taken where there is a need to cross a road.</p>	<p>Choose route that does not involve roads or roads without suitable footpaths.</p> <p>Advise volunteers not to briefing.</p>	<p>Event organiser and volunteers</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Trips / Slips due to uneven ground / kerbs (cuts / bruises / breaks)</p>	<p>Recommend volunteers wear strong sensible footwear with ankle support for activity and not open-toed footwear or flip flops.</p> <p>Do not pick on or close to the edge of steep slopes, watercourses or ditches.</p>	<p>Identify hazards in risk assessment and advise volunteers at briefing.</p>	<p>Event organiser and volunteers</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Overgrown hedges or low hanging branches (cuts/bruises/injury to eyes and face)</p>	<p>Volunteers are to be aware of their surroundings on the route.</p> <p>Avoid reaching into hedges and undergrowth that may expose face, eyes and skin to scratches.</p> <p>Take care with equipment.</p>	<p>Identify hazards in risk assessment and advise volunteers at briefing.</p>	<p>Event organiser and volunteers</p>	<p>Medium</p>

Injury from aggressive dogs or livestock (cuts/bites/bruises)	Avoid sites where there is known to be dangerous animals such as dogs or livestock with their young.	Identify hazards in risk assessment and advise volunteers at briefing.	Event organiser and volunteers	Medium
Injuries from Sharps/broken glass/hazardous substances	Volunteers are to be aware of possible hazards and told to avoid direct hand contact with litter. Anything hazardous such as syringes, asbestos, animal waste, noxious materials, hazardous materials should not be handled by volunteers and should be reported to the event organiser or Clerk who will advise the local authority. Broken glass should be placed in a solid container not a sack.	Identify hazards in risk assessment and advise volunteers at briefing. Provide a solid container for broken glass i.e. a plastic bucket. Volunteers are given maps to indicate where hazards are located so that the Parish Groundsman can remove them	Event organiser and volunteers	Medium
Injury from lifting heavy objects (strain/exhaustion)	Volunteers should be told not to lift or move heavy items. Volunteers should be advised not to overfill sacks. Items should only be picked using the litter picking stick. Items too heavy or big to lift should be reported to the event organiser who will advise the local authority.	Identify hazards in risk assessment and advise volunteers at briefing. Advise how to use litter picking stick correctly	Event organiser and volunteers	Medium
Risk from inclement weather	Check weather forecast and advise volunteers to wear appropriate clothing In very hot sunny weather advise volunteers to apply sunscreen and to wear a hat and take plenty of water to stay hydrated	Identify hazards in risk assessment and advise volunteers at briefing.	Event organiser and volunteers	Medium

