

Newton St Cyres Parish Council

Risk Assessment – Litter Pickers

Before starting your litter pick: check the weather conditions, ensure you have adequate footwear and long sleeved clothing, carry hand sanitizer and a mobile phone, ensure you have all PPE required. Ensure your tetanus injections are up to date. Under 16 years of age to be accompanied by an adult
Dispose of collected litter in an appropriate bin.

HAZARD	RISK	CONTROL MEASURE
Walking along roads without pavements	Traffic moving fast, too close, possible Collision. Risk of not being seen	Wear High Visibility vest Limit the amount of time litter picking in areas without pavements Keep a look out Be aware of vehicles around you All litter picking to be done in daylight and when visibility is not impaired by fog, mist or heavy rain, thunder
Walking along pavements near traffic	Traffic moving fast and too close, possible Collision	Wear High Visibility vest Keep a look out Be aware of vehicles around you All litter picking to be done in daylight and when visibility is not impaired by fog, mist or heavy rain, thunder
Broken glass, sharp and rusty edges	Cuts and infections	Wear gloves Use litter picking sticks Ensure tetanus injection are up to date
Needles	Cuts and infections	Leave alone and do not remove but report to Parish Clerk/MDDC
Batteries, asbestos and chemicals	Potentially dangerous depending on condition	Leave along and do not remove but report to Parish Clerk/MDDC
Picking litter from hedgerows/road side/pavement/paths etc	Cuts, stings and scratches Eye pokes from trees	Wear gloves Wear long sleeves/suitable jacket Use litter picking sticks Be aware of low hanging branches

Ground conditions	Sprains, muscle damage and broken bones	Ensure suitable footwear Choose the safest possible route over difficult ground
Heavy/awkward to handle rubbish	Sprains and pulled muscles	Take extreme care and use good lifting practice. Do not attempt to move if it's too heavy but leave in position and report to the Clerk or MDDC
Amount of rubbish collected is too heavy to carry	Strains, pulled muscles	Do not fill bag with too much rubbish – make more than one trip.
People, loan working	Physical or verbal assault	Be aware of aggressive and difficult people Withdraw rather than face conflict Have mobile phone with you to summons help if needed Do not go onto private property
Animals – domestic, wild and farm animals	Lyme's disease carried by ticks and bites and scratches from animals	Beware of loose dogs Do not litter pick in fields with animals in (sheep, cows)
Dog faeces	Toxocara canis	Do not touch dog faeces, always wear gloves and ideally use a shovel if clearing. Wash hands as soon as possible Have hand sanitizer available

Ensure that on returning home you wash your hands thoroughly. Use hand sanitizer during pick if required.
Carry out a personal inspection for minor cuts/grazes etc and treat appropriately.

Reviewed June 2025