

Risk Assessment for Volunteer Litter Picking/Weed Removal.

This form should be completed by the lead volunteer before the start of any litter pick. Litter picks are generally very safe, and it is unlikely that you will encounter any serious hazards or incidents – you will see that the points below are just common sense and are worth considering ensuring your event runs as smoothly and safely as possible.

As the organiser of the litter pick you should ensure that all volunteers know the risks and understand the control measures before clearing any litter. It is sensible to address all volunteers and introduce yourself as the lead volunteer/organiser, so they know who to go to with questions/to report an incident. You should also check that all volunteers know what equipment they must use and what area they may clean up. Also advise that a copy of the risk assessment is available on request.

Name: James O’Keeffe, Thornton Parish Council Lead Name: James O’Keeffe	Date: 2/10/2021	Phone: 07719363977	Location of Clean Up: Surrounding area of and including The Crescent, Thornton
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Before starting your clean up ensure all volunteers:

- Have the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – eg Thick gloves, hi-viz vest, sensible footwear, weather appropriate clothing etc.
- Have the correct equipment – eg Litter grabbers, plastic bags, container for needles, dog waste bags, brush, shovel etc and know how to use the equipment.
- Consider all the risks and hazards in the work area, eg hazardous waste, broken glass, dog waste, needles, roads/cycle ways etc.
- Know the work area and how to report incidents or hazardous or unidentified waste, where to get first aid, meet on completion, deposit bags of waste and mark bags containing sharp material eg broken glass.

Use the table below to score the risks in the **Risk Assessment Table**.

Likelihood (a)		Severity (b)		Risk
Certain	5	Fatality	6	Overall Risk for activity
Probable	4	Serious Disablement	5	
Even Chance	3	Sprain, Major Cuts/Bruises	4	High Risk = 21 to 30
Possible	2	Minor Cut/Strain	3	Medium Risk = 11 to 20
Unlikely	1	Minor Bruises/Grazes	2	Low Risk = 2 to 10

Risk Assessment Table

HAZARD	RISK	CONTROLS	MEASURES TO REDUCE EFFECT IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT	Score	Risk
Broken glass, sharp edges	Cuts & infections	• Strong gloves to be worn AT ALL TIMES	Seek medical attention	2	5

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use litter grabbers to pick up sharp litter. 	where appropriate. Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor.		
Needles	Cuts & infections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave alone & report to event organiser to dispose of in sharps container using litter grabber, or report to council for removal. 	Seek medical attention where appropriate.	2	5
Heavy/awkward to handle rubbish	Pulled muscles & strains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extreme care to be taken, use good lifting practices and share the load with an appropriate number of people. If too heavy to handle leave the object in place and report it to the organiser to arrange removal by the council. 	Stop immediately if suffering any pain or discomfort. Seek medical attention if the ill effects persist.	1	2
Batteries, asbestos & miscellaneous chemicals	Potentially dangerous depending on condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not approach or remove any potentially hazardous waste. Report to the council for disposal. 	Seek medical attention if exposed to pesticides, insecticides or other chemicals – record any label details.	1	2
Ground conditions	Sprains, muscle damage & broken bones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid dangerous areas and choose the safest possible route over difficult ground. Instruct volunteers to wear suitable footwear. 	Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor. Seek medical attention for any serious cuts, bruises or strains.	2	5
Highways vehicles, bicycles, plant and machinery	Collision with moving traffic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid close proximity to traffic. Stay off the highway. Wear high visibility clothing if necessary. Be aware of the vehicles around you during the litter pick. Keep a look out. Children should not work by a road-side 	Seek medical attention in the event of injury.	5	12
People, lone working	Physical or verbal assault	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of aggressive and difficult people. Withdraw rather than face conflict. Do not work out of sight of others in the group. Organiser/section leader to have mobile phone. Keep together and stay off private property. 	Seek medical attention following any assault / injury.	1	2
Dog faeces	Toxocara canis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not touch dog faeces. Always wear gloves and use a shovel when removing dog faeces. 	Thoroughly wash your hands. Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor. Seek medical attention where appropriate.	4	5

Weather Eg Thunder storms	Various issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cease work in inappropriate conditions. • Avoid working in extreme conditions. • Dress for conditions & carry additional clothing. • In the event of extreme weather conditions the litter pick should be postponed or abandoned 	Seek medical attention where appropriate.	3	2
Tools, equipment	Cuts, sprains, grazes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team to be shown how to use equipment if appropriate. • Allow enough working area for the correct and safe use of the tool. • Use appropriate protection • First aid training. • Have first aid kit available. • Volunteers must use the equipment provided and as instructed. 	Obtain medical attention in the event of injury.	5	2
Trees, shrubs	Trips, cuts & eye pokes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be alert to the risks and keep a look out for hazards. • Be aware of low hanging branches and exposed tree and shrub roots. 	Obtain medical attention in the event of injury.	3	2
Weed removal	Poisoning, skin irritations or allergic reactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear the gloves provided. • Beware of dangerous plants and possible adverse reactions. • Wash thoroughly on completion of such operations. 	Seek medical attention for unusual or suspicious symptoms after contact with vegetation.	5	2
Refuse, Litter	Sprains, muscle damage & broken bones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only pick up general waste • Do not collect building waste, rubble, concrete, tyres or fly tipped materials • Only collect waste with a litter picker provided and wear the safety clothing provided. • All full litter bags are to be placed in the skip provided on site. 	Obtain medical attention in the event of injury.	5	2
Covid- 19 guidance	Illness due to Covid -19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers must abide by all Covid restrictions that apply on the day of the litter pick including social distancing. • Any volunteer who is suffering from any Covid -19 related symptoms will be sent home. • Hand Sanitizer must be available on the day • Masks will not be required in any outdoor areas. • A signing in sheet will be available on the day and ALL volunteers must sign in and out and leave contact details. 	All volunteers are responsible for their own health and those around them.	3	2

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If Covid restrictions do not allow the event to take place then the event will be rescheduled.			
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On Completion of the Litter Pick Ensure:

- Everyone washes their hands thoroughly as soon as possible after the litter pick and before taking any food or drink.
- Any wounds are redressed after cleaning and disinfecting if there has been any contact with water.
- Volunteers carry out a personal inspection for cuts etc.
- That the area covered is inspected to see if there is any hazardous material still present. If so, record for reporting to the Council.
- All volunteers have reported back, and all equipment is collected in.
- All rubbish for collection has been left in the arranged pick up site as stated above.