

Essington Wombles Litter Picking Guidelines

These guidelines have been generated to ensure all our volunteers are aware of all potential health & safety issues and follow the correct processes to ensure an efficient and safe collection of litter.

Volunteers must provide the litter pick leader with a mobile phone number for emergency communication. The litter pick leader shall supply the group with his/her mobile phone number.

Signage

Before the litter pick commences at least two separate signs shall be placed to ensure drivers are aware of the activity.

Clothing/PPE

The volunteers should wear or carry:

- 'hi viz' jacket
- sturdy footwear with a good tread
- protective eyewear
- gloves
- several strong black plastic litter bags
- litter picker
- mobile phone or pen & paper

The designated litter pick leader should carry:

- first-aid kit
- protective eyewear
- extendable litter pickers
- 'sharps' box

Health and Safety

To ensure a safe litter pick, you **must**:

- litter pick in pairs or more
- stay in sight of others
- pick up litter with a litter picker
- do not pick litter up even with gloved hands
- avoid contact with the body when carrying collection bags
- stick to pavements, paths and walkways

- avoid dangerous areas such as steep slopes and areas close to rivers
- only pick what you can carry comfortably
- be aware of uneven ground and trip hazards
- be aware of dog fouling
- wash your hands before eating or drinking
- only do what is within your capabilities
- ensure full litter bags are left by an official litter bin for collection by Street Scene. Please do not leave bags randomly at the side of the road. Ensure the bags are adequately tied up
- Large amount of waste which have clearly been fly tipped are to be reported to South Staffs County Council with the link below:

<https://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/environment-and-climate/fly-tipping-and-environmental-crime>

To ensure a safe litter pick, you **must not**:

- litter pick items above shoulder height
- litter pick on private land
- litter pick on roads without a footpath
- stand on the road while picking litter. Face the oncoming traffic if you are working on a narrow footpath
- try to remove litter from roads or carriageways
- reach into hedges or undergrowth (unless with an extendable litter picker)
- overfill or drag collection bags
- try to compress rubbish with hands
- handle the claw end of the litter picker with bare hands
- place batteries including disposable vapes etc into rubbish bags. They shall be segregated for recycling

When litter picking with young people, you **must**:

- make sure they are always accompanied by a responsible adult
- give them and their adult a detailed briefing before the litter picking starts
- make sure they wear gloves and use all equipment correctly

Volunteers must understand and accept that participation is entirely at their own risk.

We cannot be held liable for any loss, damage or injury caused because of the actions or omissions of volunteers engaged in this activity.

However the group does have a relevant insurance policy. This may be viewed on request.

Broken Glass Procedure

If you find broken glass please observe the following:

- do not pick up by hand - never pick up broken glass by hand, even with gloves.
- use tools - use a litter picker or a brush and shovel to collect broken glass.
- separate disposal - place broken glass into a separate, rigid container (like a cardboard box or plastic bottle) rather than directly into a plastic bin bag, as it can cut through the bag.
- double bagging - if no rigid container is available, place the glass in one refuse sack and then place that inside another, marking the bag as containing sharp items.

Drugs Related Paraphernalia Procedure

Do not touch drug related paraphernalia or hypodermic needles.

You **must**:

- note the location and contact the designated litter pick leader
- the group has a 'sharps box' for disposal of such waste
- use a litter picker to collect broken drugs related paraphernalia, the group has a 'sharps box' for disposal of such waste
- seek immediate medical attention if injured with a needle

Potentially Hazardous Material Procedure

Avoid potentially hazardous material such as:

- unidentified cans or canisters
- oil drums
- chemical containers
- building materials.

You **must**:

- note the location
- report to the designated litter pick leader

Accident Response

- report any near-misses, injuries, or accidents to your designated litter pick leader
- thoroughly wash your hands, especially before eating or smoking, to avoid infections from contaminated materials
- seek medical attention for any serious cuts or injuries

Verbal or Physical Abuse

If you experience verbal or physical abuse, leave the area and report incidents to 101 for non-emergencies or, in an emergency, call 999.