

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Volunteer Litterpicking Policy

Reviewed and Adopted:

Date: 8th September 2025

Parish Council Minute: 082/25.1

Introduction

Hope with Aston Parish Council recognises the importance of cleaner streets, footpaths and green spaces to maintain a thriving community.

More than two million pieces of litter are dropped in the United Kingdom every day and the Hope with Aston volunteer litterpicking team strive to reduce the impact of this in the local area.

Litterpicking is a powerful way to unite the community and make a visible, positive change. It empowers individuals to take ownership and feel a sense of pride. Beyond aesthetics, litterpicking also has a positive impact on mental and physical health.

Hope with Aston litterpicking team meet on Fridays between 9am and 12 noon.

Responsibilities of the Parish Council:

- to ensure that litterpicking is carried out safely with the risk to volunteers kept as low as possible.
- to review the risk assessment at least annually and provide a copy to volunteers.
- to provide public liability insurance,
- to provide litterpicker tools.
- To ensure that any personal information is treated in accordance with the latest GDPR guidelines.

Responsibilities of the volunteers:

- to read and sign the risk assessment.
- to ensure that the risk assessment is adhered to.
- to report any incidents, near misses or accidents to the clerk within 24 hours.
- to inform the clerk if the litterpicking day is altered.
- to ensure that rubbish bags are left at the agreed location in the car park ready for collection by High Peak Borough Council.
- to ensure that any fly tipping or hazardous waste is reported to High Peak Borough Council.
- to provide a list of members of the team to the clerk.
- to ensure that the clerk is informed of any changes to the team in a timely manner.
- To arrange for bin bags to be obtained from High Peak Borough Council.

Risk Assessment for Litterpicking **By Volunteers in Hope and Aston, Derbyshire**

To ensure that participating volunteers act in a responsible manner, new volunteers will be briefed at the start of their first session and the risk assessment shared.

The wearing of closed toed sturdy shoes and suitable outdoor clothing is strongly recommended to all volunteers. Each volunteer is issued with a High Visibility vest, a litterpicking tool and a collection bag.

All volunteers have an obligation to take reasonable care for their own health and safety, and for that of others. Anyone under the age of 18 must be supervised by an over 18 relative.

Any incidents, near misses or accidents should be reported to Hope with Aston Parish Council Clerk within 24 hours.

| Foreseeable hazard | Descriptions of potential accident /injury / loss | Persons affected | Precautions / controls | Risk Level (Low, Med, High) |
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| Adverse weather <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy rain – flood, deep puddles or fast flowing water • Ice/snow – difficult walking conditions • High winds – trees to bend/break • Extreme heat – over exposure to UV rays | Head injuries, fractures, dislocations, sprains, cuts and bruises, fatigue, dehydration, sun burn, exposure | Volunteers | Volunteers should be aware of the local weather reports and assess if it is suitable to carry out the litter picking. Volunteers to be aware of changing weather conditions during their litter pick. Clothing worn should be appropriate to the weather conditions. | L |
| Slip / Trip / Fall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uneven or slippery ground surfaces, steep banks, stiles, vegetation, kerbs etc | Head injuries, fractures, dislocations, sprains, cuts and bruises | Volunteers | Volunteers should not venture into steep banked areas. Litter picking should only take place during daylight hours. Care to be taken on steps. | L |

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| <p>Manual Handling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying bags, moving large and heavy objects, reaching, bending and twisting | <p>Musculoskeletal issue from over exertion, break / bruise caused by dropping heavy object.</p> | <p>Volunteers</p> | <p>Litterpickers provided to avoid bending and ease debris transferral.</p> <p>Regular breaks are recommended and can be taken at any time.</p> <p>Volunteers are made aware not to lift or move anything above their own capability.</p> <p><u>Report any issues</u> such as moving heavy hazardous items to High Peak Borough Council.</p> <p>Volunteers made aware to only collect litter that can be transferred easily into black bags and bags should not be over filled.</p> | <p>L</p> |
| <p>Biological hazards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dirty water, faeces, vomit, used condoms, used syringes | <p>Infections, diseases, death</p> | <p>Volunteers</p> | <p>Always use litterpickers – do not use hands.</p> <p>Volunteers are recommended to use gloves of at least EN388 standard to ensure they are puncture and tear resistant – not provided.</p> <p>It is recommended that any existing cuts/grazes should be covered with surgical tape or a waterproof plaster.</p> <p>Volunteers should not touch any unidentified and potentially hazardous waste and report to High Peak Borough Council.</p> <p>Volunteers to wash hands on completion of litterpicking.</p> | <p>L</p> |
| <p>Sharp objects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broken glass, syringes, nails, cans, sharp twigs | <p>Cuts and abrasions, infectious diseases, death</p> | <p>Volunteers</p> | <p>Suitable clothing and sturdy footwear to be worn at all times.</p> <p>Volunteers are recommended to use gloves of at least EN388 standard to ensure they are puncture and tear resistant – not provided.</p> <p>Use litterpickers at all times.</p> | <p>L</p> |

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| | | | Volunteers should not touch any sharp objects and report to High Peak Borough Council. | |
| Contaminated waste <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Litter contaminated by hazardous substances | Death, chemical burns, skin irritation, sickness, diarrhoea, infections and diseases | Volunteers | Volunteers should not handle any potentially contaminated waste – report it to High Peak Borough Council. Volunteers to wash hands on completion of litterpicking | L |
| Collisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicles, cyclists, joggers, dogs, other pedestrians | Death, head injuries, fractures, dislocations, sprains, cuts and bruises | Volunteers, members of the public | Volunteers are advised to be aware of their surroundings and be considerate of others using the route and look before making abrupt changes in direction. Follow the highway code. HV vests to be worn. Volunteers should always work in pairs where possible when working in areas with no pavement. Volunteers must not impair hearing by using ear buds etc, e.g. listen to music. Mobile phone use should be kept to a minimum and not be used where there is no pavement, except in an emergency. Where possible volunteers should litterpick in a direction facing oncoming traffic. | L |
| Lone working <ul style="list-style-type: none"> violence medical issue | Death, stress, personal illness | Volunteers | Lone working is not recommended, but if necessary, the route and timings should be known and contact information shared with at least one other volunteer. A fully charged mobile phone is to be carried at all times by volunteers. | L |
| Health issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diabetes, heart condition, epilepsy, hay fever and adverse reactions to stings, bites, nettles etc | Death, stress, ill health and allergies | Volunteers | Volunteers who are aware they have underlying health issues should ensure they protect themselves sufficiently during the activity bearing in mind the environment they will be in. Volunteers are encouraged to inform a friend of any health issues prior to starting the litter pick. | L |

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| | | | <p>Volunteers to carry appropriate equipment and medication if required.</p> <p>Volunteers with a known high-risk medical condition to always work with a second volunteer.</p> <p>Volunteers aware of the defibrillators at the Sports Club, adjacent to the car park and outside the Cheshire Cheese.</p> | |
| Watercourses | Drowning, waterborne illnesses | Volunteers and rescuers | Volunteers not to enter any rivers / streams or overreach into a watercourse. | L |
| Volunteer dogs | Allergies Bites | Volunteers and members of the public | <p>Volunteer dogs to be kept on a short lead and under control at all times.</p> <p>Any fields containing cattle not to be entered by volunteer.</p> | L |
| Anti Social Behaviour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal and physical abuse • Rubbish fire | Stress, personal injury, damage to buildings. | Volunteers and members of the public | <p>Volunteers should not engage or confront individuals who are threatening or aggressive and should withdraw from the situation.</p> <p>At the end of the litterpicking session all volunteers to be accounted for.</p> <p>If a weapon is found report to Derbyshire Constabulary on 101 and follow their advice.</p> <p>Filled litterbags are to be left at the location agreed with High Peak Borough Council (adjacent to the bin in the car park near the toilets).</p> | L |
| Young Volunteers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding • Lack of awareness • Horseplay | Abuse, personal injury. | Volunteers and members of the public | All volunteers under 18 should be supervised by a responsible adult relative. | |

Date: July 2025

Carried out by Alison Wheeler