

Risk Assessment for Gardening of Castleton Road Planters
By Volunteers in Hope, Derbyshire

Reviewed and adopted:

Date: 9th March 2026

Parish Council Minute: 205/25.3

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 to wear a High Visibility vest.

All volunteers have an obligation to take reasonable care for their own health and safety, and for that of others and to ensure that the personal tools used are fit for purpose.

First aid is the responsibility of volunteers.

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)
Adverse weather <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy rain – flood, deep puddles • Ice/snow – difficult walking conditions • 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 gardening tasks. Clothing worn should be appropriate to the weather conditions.	L

<p>Slip / Trip / Fall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uneven or slippery ground surfaces and roadside kerb 	<p>Head injuries, fractures, dislocations, sprains, cuts and bruises, hit by vehicle</p>	<p>Volunteers</p>	<p>Gardening tasks should only take place during daylight hours. Care to be taken around the planters. HV vest to be worn. Work to be carried out from layby side where possible. Ensure good housekeeping of work area.</p>	<p>L</p>
<p>Manual Handling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying bags, watering cans, 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>Regular breaks are recommended and can be taken at any time. Volunteers are made aware not to lift or move anything above their own capability. Wheelbarrow / sack truck / vehicle to be used if possible for moving heavy objects.</p>	<p>L</p>
<p>Gardening Tools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secateurs • Trowel • Small fork etc 	<p>Cuts</p>	<p>Volunteers</p>	<p>The appropriate tool should be used for the planned task. Tools should be checked by the volunteer for integrity prior to use. Ensure good housekeeping of work area.</p>	<p>L</p>
<p>Biological / Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contamination • Irritant sap • Thorns 	<p>Infections, diseases, death</p>	<p>Volunteers</p>	<p>Volunteers are recommended to wear gloves - not provided. It is recommended that any existing cuts/grazes should be covered with surgical tape or a waterproof plaster. Volunteers to wash hands on completion of planting / watering.</p>	<p>L</p>
<p>Lone working</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • violence • medical issue 	<p>Death, stress, personal illness</p>	<p>Volunteers</p>	<p>Lone working is not recommended, but if necessary, a fully charged mobile phone should be carried. The area of work is very public.</p>	<p>L</p>

<p>Collisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles, cyclists, joggers, dogs, other pedestrians 	<p>Death, head injuries, fractures, dislocations, sprains, cuts and bruises</p>	<p>Volunteers, members of the public</p>	<p>Volunteers are advised to be aware of their surroundings and be considerate of others using the area. Follow the highway code. HV vests to be worn. Volunteers must not impair hearing by using ear buds etc, e.g. listen to music. Mobile phone use should be kept to a minimum except in an emergency.</p>	<p>L</p>
<p>Health issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diabetes, heart condition, epilepsy, hay fever and adverse reactions to stings, bites, nettles etc 	<p>Death, stress, ill health and allergies</p>	<p>Volunteers</p>	<p>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 to carry appropriate equipment and medication if required. Volunteers with a known high-risk medical condition to always work with a second volunteer. Volunteers aware of the nearest defibrillator at the Sports Club.</p>	<p>L</p>
<p>Anti Social Behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal and physical abuse 	<p>Stress, personal injury, damage to buildings.</p>	<p>Volunteers, members of the public</p>	<p>Volunteers should not engage or confront individuals who are threatening or aggressive and should withdraw from the situation.</p>	<p>L</p>
<p>Young Volunteers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding • Lack of awareness • Horseplay 	<p>Abuse, personal injury.</p>	<p>Volunteers, members of the public</p>	<p>All volunteers under 18 should be supervised by a responsible adult relative.</p>	<p>L</p>