

Litter Picking in the Borough of Wigan



Why litter pick?

- Gets you out in the fresh air
- Improves the look of the neighbourhood
- Make friends
- Set a good example
- Help wildlife to survive
- Litter doesn't biodegrade and will build up over time
- Less plastics and inks will pollute the soil
- Keep down council tax



Litter Picking Equipment

- * **Picking stick** – free from the council or your ward councillor
- * **Blue bin bags** – free from the council or your ward councillor
- * **Thick gloves** such as gardening gloves
- * If picking near busy roads then a hi-vis waist coat is advised
- * Secateurs, thick boots and heavy clothing for undergrowth
- * Wellies or walking boots for muddy areas
- * Optional plastic ring to keep bag open



Picking individually or with a friend

- Choose an area that is safe to pick
- If area is isolated, tell someone your location, pack a phone, take a friend
- Wear appropriate clothing
- Locate the nearest public bin, filled blue bags can be tied up and left next to them. Choose a bin close to convenient parking for collection truck
- Only use a stick or gloves to pick up rubbish
- Beware sharp objects – for needles see later slide
- Large fly tipped objects should be reported to the council
- Picking is easier in winter before the brambles start to sprout



Picking in an organised group

- Choose an area that is safe to pick – risk assess it?
- Have a method of cancelling if the weather is very bad
- Choose a public bin point for blue bags close to convenient parking for collection truck.
- Give a health & safety talk & take names/emergency contact
- Be within shouting distance of each other
- Ask people to tell you if leaving early, collect borrowed items.
The council will give free sticks and bags to organised groups.



Needles and other sharp objects

Needles on public land

Please report any discarded needles or syringes immediately, we have staff that are trained to safely remove them.

How do I request street or highway cleaning?

You can request street or highway cleaning as a Wigan Borough resident through MyAccount or as a non-resident.

- [Request street or highway cleaning as a Wigan Borough resident](#)
- [Request street or highway cleaning as a non-resident.](#)

Don't put yourself at risk

- Do not handle the item
- Do not put the item in your bin, down a toilet, down a drain, or in a litter bin
- Keep the needle or syringe out of the reach of children.

If you do suffer an injury from a discarded needle or syringe, seek medical advice and treatment immediately.

[Request street or highway cleaning through MyAccount](#) >

[Request street or highway cleaning \(unregistered user\)](#) >

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Needles on public land

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Resources

- * **What3words** eg Entrance to this club is **quail.wisdom.prancing** Get the free app. It is useful for identifying exact locations within a 3m square when reporting fly tipping and needles
- * Wigan council website is a mine of information: type in 'request-permission-to-improve-a-space' in the search box or **email streetsceneplanning@wigan.gov.uk**
- * LENDF/LHSRG have litter picking equipment groups can borrow
- * Our 3 Lowton East Ward Councillors – Kath, Jenny and Garry
- * Facebook – '**Leigh Litter Pickers**' Group



Recent Litter Pick: LENDF and Foilco



Sunday 4th February

On Hesketh Meadow Field

A good turn out

Despite the weather

Note choice of public bin near road

Irene has Dave from Street Scene on speed dial!

Thanks to all who came



A week later, the rubbish keeps being dropped

***Most Dog Poo Bags are still plastic**, even though it's in green washed 'environmental packaging' – we picked up a lot of neatly tied poo bags, the poo had decomposed, the bags were still in pristine condition. Please ask people to bin these poo bags, and not fling them! Better still, get potato starch bags.

*Plastic, over many, many years, breaks down into micro plastics – which we then ingest in our food via fish, animal and plant products. Let's not buy single use plastic.

*Train children **not** to drop litter from an early age. Tossing litter out of cars and while walking should **not** become a habit. Certain children and adults did not get the training!

*Ask shops and fast food places to reduce single use packaging and make packaging plant based where possible. Also make inks plant based.

