

Little Abington Parish Council: litter pick arrangements

The parish councils take it in turns to arrange and coordinate the annual litter pick. They have been running successfully for several years. There might be a need to strengthen arrangements.

I suggest the following actions are required.

- Each parish council should draw up a schedule of the areas to be cleaned up and the number of people required. This year some Little Abington residents commented that they had been asked to clear areas in Great Abington when parts Little Abington seemed to have been overlooked. For example, Fourwentways required a small working party on the Sunday to clear it. The schedule should also include areas which are suitable for children.
- LAPC has drawn up a risk assessment template for insurance purposes. This and any actions required to reduce risks needs to be agreed by both parish councils. See appendix.
- As element of the risk management assessment should be the equipment required for volunteers.

Equipment

LAPC has a small supply of litter pickers (10), hi-vis vests (5) and gloves. These were purchased through a £250.00 Community Chest Grant a few years ago. Members of the Rivercare group tend to arrive with their own litter pickers and jackets.

In previous years SCDC provided a generous supply of litter pickers, bags and gloves but this year it seems to have been problematic. The supply of litter pickers was not adequate for the number of participants. It is wonderful that the Beavers and other young people's groups are participating in the event but it was noted that provision needs to be made for children.

LAPC's equipment sits in the Clerk's garage and is used once or maybe twice a year. I would propose that this is made a community resource with an arrangement for lending and returning it. The litter pickers need to be dunked in a bucket of disinfectant before repacking.

There is another opportunity to apply for Community Chest grants. It is proposed that the parish council(s) should put in an application for a mixture of litter pickers, hi viz vests of different sizes and some small gloves. LAPC has an adequate supply of large gloves.

Approximate indication of costs

- **Litter pickers** £5.00 each. Sizes available needs more research. They seem to be standard
- **Hi viz vests** sizes seem to range from 90 cm chest to 152cm. Local groups that work with children could probably advise how to source smaller sizes. Cost as little as £2 + VAT
- **Small gloves.** Volunteers could be asked to bring their own rubber/gardening gloves. Packs of 12 work gloves in sizes ranging from small to XXL from £10. Child sizes might be required.
- **Additional costs** I have bought heavy duty bags - better than those provided by SCDC and claimed the cost on expenses. These are easily obtained from a supermarket.

Signage and visibility

The risk assessment should consider which areas require volunteers to wear hi viz jackets and if signage/ the use of warning triangles would reduce risks. There would be a cost in getting reusable signs produced. An alternative could be using car warning triangles.

Risk reduction/ indemnity

Litter picks have tended to be informal affairs. There is no formal method of registration and volunteers are not required to read or sign anything about risk reduction. Although we do not want overly formalise the event there may be some advantage in providing an A4 sheet

reminding volunteers of the importance of being aware of traffic, care in what they pick up and hygiene considerations.

ACTION

1. LAPC is asked to consider the mix of equipment required .A maximum of £1000 can be applied for. Applying for a community resource might make the application attractive to the funding committee. GAPC might also wish to make an application.
2. The risk assessment template and approaches to risk reduction need to be mutually agreed by the parish councils

Genevieve Dalton
Clerk,
Little Abington Parish Council

APPENDIX

LITTLE ABINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

Event Litter Pick/Village Clean up	Name of Assessor(s) Clerk	Date of assessment <<update>>
Area,task or activity Clearing Litter and Village Clean up	Location Streets and footpaths, in and around Great Abington and Little Abington	Date of next assessment <<Annual>>

Significant Hazards	Who might be harmed and how?	Current control measures	Likelihood/impact of harm or loss occurring with current controls in place? (High, Medium or Low)	Further control measures (if required)	Residual Risk (High, Medium or Low)? Is this acceptable?	Date controls are to be implemented and by whom
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing the risk for public liability claims to the parish council 	Parish council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the procedures recommended by parish Council insurance company is followed 	Low/expensive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 		Parish councils
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cuts, Bruises, Needlestick Hygiene risks due to human 	Volunteers participating in the litter pick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gloves and litter pickers provided. Volunteers advised to exercise caution when dealing with sharp objects e.g. 	<p>Cuts and bruises medium risk/ low-impact.</p> <p>Needlestick low-risk /high-impact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not aware of any incidents when used syringes have been found ensure first aid equipment is available back at 		Event organisers

waste/ faecal matter		<p>broken glass and metal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children not allocated to areas where there is a risk of dirty waste. • Children to be supervised • Encouragement to wash hands before enjoying the free refreshments 	Hygiene: medium risk/ medium impact	<p>base i.e. the Abington Institute.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider ensuring that there are clear procedures in the event of an emergency. • We could consider offering hygienic Hand wipes. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drowning 	Volunteers participating in the litter pick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers should not be allocated to clear the river. This is the responsibility of the River care group 	Low-risk/ high-impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers should be asked not to clear the riverbanks. • Consider ensuring that there are clear procedures in the event of an emergency 	Low-risk	Event organisers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road Traffic accident 	Volunteers participating in the litter pick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults only allocated to busy road areas. • Hi viz jackets in use 	low-risk /high-impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider investing in more hi viz jackets • Consider ensuring that there are clear procedures in the event of an emergency • consider using hazard signs (triangles) on the roads when litter 		Parish councils

				picking is in progress		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers lost/not returning to base. 	Volunteers participating in the litter pick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no process for counting volunteers out and counting them back in again. To date no one has been lost 	?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sign in /sign out sheets and a requirement to return to base. Should this also include some indemnity?. Better control and allocation of litter picking areas so that the coordinator knows who has been dispatched and where to. 		Event organisers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Back injuries etc 	<p>volunteers participating in the litter pick.</p> <p>Volunteers collecting and piling rubbish bags at the end of the event</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers advised not to pick up heavy items or to overload the rubbish bags 	Low-risk medium impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 		Event organisers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damage caused by rubbish awaiting collection 	Local residents and pedestrians/passers-by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rubbish is stacked at agreed collection points, well wrapped in plastic bags. Arrangements made for collection on the Monday after the litter pick. 	Low-risk medium impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of stronger and more robust bags identification of a lockable and secure enclosure 		Event organisers

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a risk that the bags could be opened by vandals/morons or by animals and strewn over the road and pavements 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of equipment 	<p>parish councils litter pickers are not returned at the end of the event.</p> <p>SCDC litter pickers are not returned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAPC litter pickers are labelled and counted by the coordinator. To date all have been returned. • 	low-risk/ low-impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. More litter pickers could be purchased and there may be an option for more grant funding. • Not aware if SCDC counts the litter pickers that are returned to them 		Parish councils