



Barkway Parish Council Litter Pickers' Risk Assessment

This Litter Pickers' Risk Assessment should be read by all employees and volunteers before the start of any litter pick. Litter picks are generally very safe, and it is unlikely that you will encounter any serious hazards or incidents – you will see that the points below are just common sense and are worth considering to ensure your litter pick runs as smoothly and safely as possible.

As the organiser of the litter pick, Barkway Parish Council should ensure that all employees and volunteers know the risks and understand the control measures before clearing any litter. It is sensible for the Parish Clerk to introduce themselves to all employees and volunteers so that litter pickers know who to go to with questions or to report an incident. The Parish Clerk should also check that all volunteers know what equipment they must use and what area they may clean up.

Parish Clerk: Catharine Toms Contact Phone: 07763 167116	Location of Clean Up: Barkway Village Parish Map attached	
Equipment provided: Litter picker, plastic gloves, hi vis waistcoat, bin bags and bag holder	Personal Protective Equipment advised: Sturdy footwear, long sleeved t-shirt and trousers	Nearest 24-hour hospital with A&E: Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge In case of emergency - Ambulance: 999

Before starting the clean up all Litter Pickers should ensure they have:

- Have the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – e.g. Thick gloves, hi-viz vest, sensible footwear, weather appropriate clothing.
- Have the correct equipment – e.g. Litter grabbers, plastic bags and bag holder, and know how to use the equipment.
- Consider all the risks and hazards in the work area, e.g. hazardous waste, broken glass, dog waste, vomit, needles, condoms and roads/cycle ways, thorny bushes, low branches, uneven ground, hidden banks.
- Know the work area and how to report incidents or hazardous or unidentified waste, where to get First Aid, where to deposit bags of waste in the pavilion bins.

On Completion of the Litter Pick Ensure:

- Everyone washes their hands thoroughly as soon as possible after the litter pick and before taking any food or drink.
- Any wounds are redressed after cleaning and disinfecting if there has been any contact with water.
- You carry out a personal inspection for cuts etc.
- That the area covered is inspected to see if there is any hazardous material still present. If so record for reporting to the Council.
- All rubbish for collection has been left in the arranged rubbish deposit site in the pavilion bins.

Use the table below to score the risks in the **Risk Assessment Table**.

Likelihood (a)		Severity (b)		Magnitude = a x b
Certain	5	Fatality	6	2 x 3 = 6
Probable	4	Serious Disablement	5	i.e. LOW RISK
Even Chance	3	Sprain, Major Cuts/Bruises	4	High Risk = 21 to 30
Possible	2	Minor Cut/Strain	3	Medium Risk = 11 to 20
Unlikely	1	Minor Bruises/Grazes	2	Low Risk = 2 to 10

Risk Assessment Table

Hazard	Risk	Controls	Measures to reduce effect in the event of an accident	Score	Risk
Broken glass, sharp/rusty edges	Cuts & infections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong gloves to be worn at all times. Use litter grabbers to pick up sharp litter. All participants should have up to date tetanus protection. 	Seek medical attention where appropriate. Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor.	4x3 = 12	M
Needles	Cuts & infections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave alone and notify Parish Clerk to report to council for removal. 	Seek medical attention where appropriate.	2x5 = 10	L
Heavy/awkward to handle rubbish	Pulled muscles & strains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extreme care to be taken, use good lifting practices and share the load with an appropriate number of people. If too heavy to handle leave the object in place and report it to the Parish Clerk to arrange removal by the Council. 	Stop immediately if suffering any pain or discomfort. Seek medical attention if the ill effects persist.	2x4 = 8	L
Batteries, asbestos & miscellaneous chemicals	Potentially dangerous depending on condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not approach or remove any potentially hazardous waste. Notify Parish Clerk to report to the council for disposal. 	Seek medical attention if exposed to pesticides, insecticides or other chemicals – record any label details.	2x5 = 10	L
Ground conditions	Sprains, muscle damage & broken bones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid dangerous areas and choose the safest possible route over difficult ground. All litter pickers to wear suitable footwear. 	Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor. Seek medical attention for any serious cuts, bruises or strains.	5x4 = 20	M

Highways vehicles, bicycles, plant and machinery	Collision with moving traffic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid close proximity to traffic if possible. • Stay off the highway. • Be alert to the potential presence of agricultural machinery. • Wear high visibility clothing. • Do not work on the roadside if the speed limit is 30mph or over, ie outside of the village area agreed. • Be aware of the vehicles around you during the litter pick. 	Seek medical attention in the event of injury.	5x6 = 30	H
People, lone working	Physical or verbal assault	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of aggressive and difficult people. • Withdraw rather than face conflict. • Do not work out of sight of others • Organiser/accompanying adult to have mobile phone. • Keep together and stay off private property. 	Seek medical attention following any assault / injury.	2x4 = 8	L
Animals – Domestic, wild & farm	Lymes Disease carried by animal ticks & bites/scratches from animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear appropriate clothing. • Beware of loose dogs. • Avoid contact with animals. • Avoid contact with animal faeces. 	Seek medical attention as soon as possible after being bitten or scratched. Wash hands immediately after contact with faeces. Avoid touching eyes or mouth.	2x4 = 8	L
Waterside diseases	Weil's Disease from rat's urine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not touch dead animals. • Cover any cuts or sores with a waterproof plaster before carrying out a litter pick. • Avoid getting hands wet in rivers, ponds or canals. 	Seek medical attention where appropriate. Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor	2x5 = 10	L
Dog faeces	Toxocara canis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not touch dog faeces. 	Thoroughly wash your hands. Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor. Seek medical attention where appropriate.	4x5 = 20	M
Poor weather, eg thunder storms	Various health issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cease work in inappropriate conditions. • Avoid working in extreme conditions. • Dress for conditions, carry additional clothing. • In the event of extreme weather conditions, the litter pick should be postponed or abandoned 	Seek medical attention where appropriate.	3x4 = 12	M

Steep slopes	Falls leading to sprains, muscle damage & broken bones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid picking on or close to steep slopes or banks etc and below unstable slopes. Take weather conditions and possible weather changes into account. • Seek medical treatment in the event of injury 	Seek medical attention where appropriate.	2x4 = 8	L
Electric fences	Electrocution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always assume electric fences are live. • Litter pickers should not touch electric fences 	Seek medical attention where appropriate.	4x5 = 20	M
Water, marshes, bogs	Hypothermia, drowning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid banks, especially if they appear unstable. Always work in pairs if close to water. • Shower and change into warm dry clothing if immersed. • Adults should be cautious and non-swimmers must not litter pick near water 	Seek medical attention where appropriate.	1x5 = 5	L
Hedges, fences, walls, ditches		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take care when climbing stiles particularly in wet weather. • Avoid climbing walls, ditches and fences. • Stay within the nominated location. 	Obtain medical attention in the event of injury.	2x4 = 8	L
Tools, equipment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter pickers to be shown how to use equipment if appropriate. • Allow sufficient working area for the correct and safe use of the tool. • Use appropriate protection • Employees and volunteers must use the equipment provided and as instructed. 	Obtain medical attention in the event of injury.	2x3 = 6	L
Trees, shrubs	Trips, cuts & eye pokes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be alert to the risks and keep a look out for hazards. • Be aware of low hanging branches and exposed tree and shrub roots. 	Obtain medical attention in the event of injury.	3x3 = 9	L
Irritants, dangerous plants	Poisoning, skin irritations or allergic reactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear the gloves provided. • Beware of dangerous plants and possible adverse reactions. • Wash thoroughly on completion of such operations-especially before touching food. 	Seek medical attention for unusual or suspicious symptoms after contact with vegetation.	3x5 = 15	M