**NARBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL**

**VILLAGE LITTER STRATEGY 2021 - 2023**

Adopted 10th May 2021

Reviewed 10th May 2023

**1. Introduction**

1.1 Narborough Parish Council is aware of the ongoing problem of litter dropped on the roads and pathways of our village.

1.2 This issue regularly features anecdotally, in resident’s concerns as a source of annoyance.

1.3 Recently the Council has been requested to produce a strategy to encourage voluntary community action to address this problem, along with additional action to reduce the incidence of litter.

**2. The scope of this strategy**

2.1 Narborough Parish Council recognises that a number of residents already choose to undertake informal litter picking around the village. Nothing in this strategy would seek to interfere with this creditable work.

2.2 This strategy aims to provide safety considerations for people picking litter in an informal capacity, along with providing useful additional information to assist with this task.

2.3 The council is attempting to establish a bi-annual community litter picking event, in which volunteers would join together, using council procured resources, to remove litter from identified areas.

2.4 Additionally the council are exploring the feasibility of providing additional physical resources, such as signage and additional fixed litter bins, in an attempt to reduce the incidence of litter being inappropriately discarded.

2.5 All aspects of this strategy are to comply with all Covid-19 restrictions which are in force / will likely be in force at the time. An assessment is to be made as to the ‘public appetite’ for meeting in groups before organising any community event.

**3. Safety advice for informal litter picking**

3.1 A risk assessment for the activity of litter picking within the village of Narborough has been produced and is attached to this strategy document (Appendix A).

3.2 The guidance and safety requirements identified in this risk assessment have been summarised into a user-friendly safety guide (Appendix B) for the consideration of residents choosing to informally pick up litter around the village.

3.3 This safety information is to be published on the council’s website and on notice boards throughout the village.

**4. Community litter picking event**

4.1 The council is seeking to establish a community event twice each year at which volunteers would join together, using council procured resources, to remove litter from identified routes.

4.2 It is anticipated that as well as having an immediate benefit of removing litter, such events will foster an awareness of the problem of litter, and engender on-going community action to remove litter where it is encountered.

4.3 A framework event plan for these community events is attached to this strategy (Appendix C).

**5. Provision of additional litter resources**

5.1 The council will undertake a cost / benefit assessment of the viability of providing additional litter resources. This assessment will compare the anticipate the benefit of providing these resources against the cost.

5.2 The scope of this assessment would cover the provision of additional litter bins in the most problematic areas, along with related signage.

5.3 This assessment is to be conducted over 2 months following the removal of Covid-19 restrictions, and normal movement / activity of people is resumed. Evidence gathered will include direct observation of litter pattens and anecdotal evidence from residents.

5.4 The report will be completed by councillors nominated by the Chairperson and its findings reported back to the council for consideration at the next available council meeting.

**6. Publication of litter information**

6.1 The council will produce a litter information notice, containing safety information for individuals undertaking casual litter picking. This information will be derived from the risk assessment table.

6.2 This notice will also contain contacts methods of reporting more problematic litter matters to Breckland District Council / Parish Council.

6.3 The litter information notice will be published on the Parish Council’s website and on noticeboards throughout the village.

**7. Review of village litter strategy**

7.1 This strategy is to be reviewed in 2 years (March 2023).

Appendix A

**Risk Assessment Table**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Hazard** | **Risk** | **Control Measures** | **In Event of Accident** | **Hazard Score** | **Risk Score** | **Risk Category (After control measure)** |
| Moving Vehicles | Collision with persons | * If possible, stay off roadway * Only collect litter from kerb using litter grabbers * High visibility clothing * No litter picking on roads above 40 MPH speed limit * Use a lookout * Children should not work by roadside * Use of “litter picking in progress” signs, if available | Medical Attention / 999 | 2 | 6 | Medium |
| Live Animals | Bites, Scratches Infection | * Avoid potential contact with animals * Look out for loose dogs * Wear appropriate clothing / gloves * Do not disturb any litter that may form animal habitat / nests | Medical Attention | 2 | 4 | Low |
| Uneven Ground conditions (i.e., Ditch to North of Main Road) | Sprains Muscle Damage  Broken Bones | * Avoid uneven ground unless a safe route can be identified * Wear suitable footwear * Be aware of tree stumps * Test footing when entering terrain covered with thick undergrowth | Medical Attention / 999 (if severe) | 3 | 3 | Low |
| Sharp / Rusty Objects | Cuts  Infection | * Only use litter Grabbers to move sharp rusty objects | Wash cuts immediately, Medical attention | 2 | 3 | Low |
| Drug Paraphernalia / Needles | Cuts  Infection | * Avoid * Report to group leader / Council | Medical Attention | 1 | 4 | Low |
| Heavy Items | Muscle Strains | * Use correct lifting technique * Use appropriate number of persons * Leave object and report to group leader / Council | Stop activity if any discomfort  Medical Attention if | 4 | 2 | Low |
| Hazardous Waste  (Unidentified containers and items with hazard symbol on label) | Contamination  Infection  Chemical burns  Respiratory Injury | * Avoid * Report to group leader / Council | Seek immediate medical attention if exposed to such material  Record any available details on label | 2 | 5 | Low |
| Open Water (e.g., River Nar or standing water) | Hypothermia  Drowning  Waterborne disease | * Avoid any un-barriered banks * Work in pairs around water * No children to pick in these areas * Non-swimmers to avoid these areas * Use litter grabber and avoid immersing hands in water * Cover open wounds with waterproof plaster | Shower and change into dry clothing if immersed  Medical attention / 999 if necessary | 2 | 3 | Low |
| Dead Animals / Animal faeces | Infection | * Do not touch dead animals * Wear gloves * Cover open wounds with a waterproof plaster * If choosing to remove dog faeces use a shovel / scoop * Separately bag if possible | Wash thoroughly after any contact | 3 | 1 | Low |
| Electric Fences | Shock | * Observe signage * Do not touch * Assume all electric fences are live | Medical attention / 999 in extreme cases only | 3 | 1 | Low |
| Lone working | Physical / Verbal assault  Unwitnessed accident | * Withdraw from any conflict * Work in line of sight with others * Ensure contact method available (i.e. mobile phone) | Medical attention following any injury | 1 | 3 | Low |
| Working with Children | Various | * Children under 16 to be supervised by a responsible adult (parent / relative / carer) at all times * Children not to work near roads or water | Dependent upon event | N/a | N/a | N/a |
| Fences / Barriers | Slips  Trips  Falls | * Do not climb any fences, walls or hedges * Avoid entering private property * Use caution when climbing stiles * Stay within designated litter pick route | Medical attention following any injury | 1 | 3 | Low |
| Pitter picking equipment | Cuts  Abrasion | * Group leader to instruct on safe equipment use * Wear appropriate gloves | Medical attention if required | 1 | 1 | Low |

Appendix B

# **Informal Litter Picking Safety Checklist**

## **Do:**

* Use a litter grabber at all times – avoid picking up litter with your hands – Wear appropriate protective gloves
* Be aware of your environment to avoid risks
* Pick during full daylight hours
* Clean hands thoroughly before eating and drinking or touching your face
* Wear stout shoes and weather appropriate clothing
* Stay clear of water, rock, mud and other potentially unstable or hazardous surfaces
* Follow local rules, including Covid-19 restrictions, avoid entering private land
* Avoid contact with the body when carrying any bags of litter
* Ensure all cuts or abrasions are clean and covered with a waterproof plaster

## **Don't**

* Pick up any items that cannot be easily identified or are clearly hazardous, including needles and drug paraphernalia. Report any potentially dangerous items the Council
* Try to remove dead or live animals. Please report these to the Council.
* Compress rubbish using your hands or feet as you could accidentally puncture your skin
* Litter-pick alongside fast roads. If you pick alongside parish lanes always wear hi-vis vests, be aware of traffic and all times and stop picking to let vehicles pass
* Overfill bags or put heavy items into bags - avoid lifting heavy bags alone
* Confront anyone you see littering
* Try to lift bulky or heavy items - please report these to the Council.

**Contact Details**

Breckland District Council:

<https://www.breckland.gov.uk/litter-and-dog-fouling>

Narborough Parish Council:

Email: narboroughpcnorfolk@hotmail.com

Appendix C

**Litter Picking – Provisional Event Plan**

**Dates**: 2 events annually in May and September

**Start Time:** 1100 hrs

**Event Duration:** 1 Hour

**Assembly Point:** Notice board area, behind Eastbound (towards Swaffham) bus stop

**Designated Route:** Route 1 – Main Road & Swaffham Road

Route 2 – Chalk Lane & Dennys Walk

**Equipment:**  Litter picking kits to be supplied by District Council (To be confirmed)

**Organisation**: Depending upon numbers attending, 1 or 2 groups to be established

A community litter champion (identified in advance) to lead each group

Equipment to be distributed / collected by group leader

**Collection**: Bagged litter is to be grouped (1 or 2 per route) at a roadside, for collection by District Council (to be confirmed)

**Safety**: Depending upon numbers attending the whole group to be given safety advice (Appendix B) by one of the community litter champions.

If larger numbers attend, individual groups to be briefed by group leaded, to ensure understanding

**Publicity**: An event poster to be produced and placed on village notice boards 1 month in advance of event

Poster and descriptive message to be displayed on council website 1 month in advance of event

**Community Litter** Litter champions to oversee the organisation and safety of the group(s).

**Champion** Ensure access to mobile phone to call 999 if required

**Responsibilities:** Distribute / collect equipment

Ensure collected litter stored for removal