

This Risk Assessment covers the hazards associated with volunteers litter picking in the community on **Solihull MBC land only**. It is to be used as guidance when volunteers are undertaking activities without the supervision of a Solihull Metropolitan Borough Officer.

This Risk Assessment should be used in conjunction with the Love Solihull Community Litter Picking Guidelines. Activities that do not follow these guidelines are carried out at your own risk.

If you require further clarification or have any questions or feedback relating to this risk assessment then please get in touch.

If you are involved in an incident or accident that has resulted in ill health or injury or if you are involved in an event where no harm has been caused, but had the potential to cause injury or ill health then please report this to the Love Solihull team at the earliest opportunity: 0121 704 8000 or email lovesolihull@solihull.gov.uk.

Impact/severity	High	Amber	Amber	Red
	Med	Green	Amber	Amber
	Low	Green	Green	Green
		Low	Med	High
Likelihood				

Community Litter Picking										
			Initial risk			Control Measures; (existing controls / precautions) should be considered.	Net Risk			
Hazard	Risk Description / Hazardous Event	Persons at Risk	Likelihood	Impact / Severity	Risk Level	Preventative & Protective Measures; (IP) = measures in place; (TP) = measures to be put in place / date of completion.	Likelihood	Impact / Severity	Risk Level	Owner
Slips, trips and falls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uneven surface area. Equipment and/or waste bags left lying around site. Inappropriate footwear. 	Volunteers and members of public	H	M	Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (IP) If possible undertake prior site inspections to identify hazardous ground that is to be avoided on litter pick (IP) If necessary temporary hazards are to be highlighted by signage until hazard is removed (IP) Designate an area to keep all tools and equipment when they are not in use (IP) Wear appropriate sturdy footwear. (IP) Ensure footpaths are kept clear during works. Remove waste to pre-designated area following work. Take extra care in overgrown, rocky or wet/muddy areas 	M	L	Green	

Lost child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children litter picking, wandering off, and getting lost or abducted 	Children litter picking	L	H	Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (IP) All volunteers to remain vigilant for any suspicious behaviour by members of the public – report to the police if necessary (IP) No child under 16 years of age to participate in litter pick without supervision by parent or guardian (IP) Child/s parent/s or guardian/s to remain with child at all times 	L	H	Amber
Manual Handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moving heavy or awkwardly shaped items Heavy object landing on foot causing break or bruising 	Volunteers	M	M	Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (IP) Do not overfill bags (IP) Before attempting to move bag assess the weight and whether more people are required to lift it. (IP) If available use lifting equipment to help transport item (IP) If there are not the necessary resources to move item then do not attempt to move it (IP) Consider wearing steel toe cap boots – these will not be provided. If unsure about footwear avoid moving heavy objects. 	L	M	Green
Hand tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorrect use of litter picking equipment may lead to injuries 	Volunteers and members of the public	H	M	Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (IP) All members of working party are advised by group lead on safe usage of litter picking equipment (IP) All tools assessed by group lead prior to use to ensure they are in safe working order. (IP) Ensure operatives are not working in too close proximity to each other and remain aware of their surroundings (IP) Be vigilant of others using hand tools nearby. 	L	M	Green

<p>Moving Vehicles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hit by a moving vehicle whilst working on or near the highway • Near miss or close proximity drive by whilst working on the highway • Working on or near the roadside 	<p>Volunteers and motorists</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>Amber</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (IP) Do not litter pick on roads or roadside verges • (IP) Minimise instances of crossing the road by assessing site initially to choose best location to undertake the task. • (IP) Use designated pedestrian crossings where available • (IP) If possible work in pairs or groups • (IP) Child/s parent/s or guardian/s to remain with child at all times • (IP) Plan safe route prior to activity taking account of footpath provision, road speed and crossing points. 	<p>L</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Green</p>	
<p>Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal and physical abuse • Fire caused by person/s igniting bags awaiting collection 	<p>Volunteers and residents</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>Amber</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (IP) If you encounter any aggressive behaviour avoid confrontation and consider leaving the area. Report to project lead and Love Solihull. Consider reporting to Police. • (IP) Do not attempt to engage with any individual threatening physical violence, leave the area and report to Police immediately. Please also report to Love Solihull. • (IP) If you encounter a knife or weapon please refer to the 'Community Litter Picking Guidelines' and report to the Police • (IP) Bags not to be left next to buildings • (IP) Group leaders to inform Love Solihull when large amounts of bags require collecting. 	<p>L</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Green</p>	

Lone Working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical situation leading to inability to summon assistance. • Increased potential to become target of physical attack causing harm, injury or death. 	Volunteers	M	H	Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (IP) If volunteering alone tell a friend/family member/ or equivalent where you are so that if anything were to happen to you someone knows where you are. • (IP) Consider the locations you are litter picking in. Try to remain in areas that are open and visible to the public and avoid going into any unlit areas after dark. • Consider joining a local community litter picking group – contact Love Solihull for more information. 	L	H	Amber	
Biological hazards including sharps (glass, needles) faeces and urine, asbestos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuts to skin • Risk of infection Discarded needles. • Disease via transfer from hands to mouth 	Volunteers and members of the public	H	M	Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (IP) When litter picking always use a litter picking tool. • (IP) Gloves should be worn when there is potential of coming into contact with litter. • (IP) Do not pick up unidentified and potentially hazardous waste or handle any bio-hazard. (Including faeces, knives & syringes) Report to the council or land owner if possible. • (IP) Consider covering any cuts or grazes with a waterproof plaster before carrying out a litter pick. • (IP) Do not move suspected fly-tipping and report to the council or land owner. • (IP) Familiarise yourself with asbestos using this simple asbestos ID chart on the HSE website here: http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/gallery.htm • (IP) Wash hands before eating, drinking, smoking or going to the toilet. 	M	L	Green	

Adverse weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy rain and wind. • Lightning • Heat / Sun Exposure. • Strong winds resulting in falling limbs and/or trees. • Cold and freezing conditions. • Items blowing on to highways causing obstruction 	Volunteers and motorists	M	H	Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (IP) In the event of severe weather consider postponing activity. • (IP) In the case of lightning take shelter in buildings or vehicles. Keep clear of trees and open fields. • (IP) Wear sun screen and hat if possible. Limit exposure to sun. Take regular breaks in shade. • (IP) Ensure adequate amount of water is available. • (IP) Warm clothing. Limit duration of task. Take regular breaks in shelter • (IP) Ensure all light weight items are secured from wind 	L	M	Green	
Open Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drowning • Pollution of the water course. • Pollution from the water. • Disease including Leptospirosis • Contact with underwater objects. 	Volunteers	M	H	Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (IP) Avoid entering open water to retrieve litter • (IP) When litter picking items from water's edge do not over reach. • (IP) When collecting items from the edge of open water wear waterproof gloves, these will not be provided. • (IP) Never litter pick by open water alone. 	L	H	Amber	

Contracting Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person to person transmission • Transmission from contaminated surfaces / objects 	Members of the public, volunteers	M	H	Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict following of Government guidance and checking daily to see if guidance changes. • Individuals currently shielding, in 'at risk' groups, displaying symptoms or in contact with people showing symptoms should not litter pick. • Limit group numbers to comply with current Government guidance and keep a record of those attending so if group member/s develop symptoms of Covid-19 then track and trace can be used. • Observe social distancing at all times, planning litter picking route beforehand to avoid areas of potential congregation. Consider litter picking at quieter times of day. • Avoid sharing equipment • Bring your own gloves to wear through-out the activity including when setting up and fastening bags. Wash them thoroughly after each litter pick. Do not share your gloves with others. • Wash hands thoroughly with hand wash or sanitiser before and after each litter pick • Avoid touching your face. • Do not overfill bags. Once they are full please securely tie them closed. • Use double bag method to secure the litter you have collected, placing one Love Solihull bag inside the other. • Take additional care should you find disposable gloves and face masks. • Sanitise your equipment after each use or quarantine kit for 7 days. 	L	H	Amber	
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I M P A C T	High	Amber 6	Amber 7	Red 9
	Medium	Green 3	Amber 5	Amber 8
	Low	Green 1	Green 2	Green 4
		Low	Medium	High
	LIKELIHOOD			

NET Risk Level	Action and Timescale
Red 9	Work should not be started or continued until the risk level has been reduced. While the control measures should be cost-effective, the legal duty to reduce the risk is mandatory. This means that if it is not possible to reduce the risk, even with unlimited resources, then the work must not be started or must remain prohibited.
Amber 7 & 8	Work should not be started until the risk has been reduced. Considerable resources may have to be allocated to reduce the risk. Where the risk involves work in progress, the problem should be remedied as quickly as possible and certainly within one month.
Amber 6	Although this risk is unlikely to happen, all reasonable efforts should be made to reduce the impact of this risk. Risk reduction measures should normally be implemented within six months, depending on the number of people exposed to the hazard.
Amber 5	Efforts should be made to reduce the risk, but the costs of prevention should be carefully considered. Risk reduction measures should normally be implemented within three months, depending on the number of people exposed to the hazard.
Green 1, 2 & 3	Whilst this level of risk is generally acceptable, consideration should be given to cost-effective solutions, or improvements that impose minimal or no additional cost burden.
Green 4	Monitoring is required to ensure that the controls are maintained.

