

## Plastic Free Letchworth Risk Assessment: Litter Picking

Hazard	What could happen	Who could be hurt	Control
Highways vehicles, bicycles, plant and machinery	Collision with moving traffic	Volunteer or member of the public.	<p>Comply with NHDC requirement that litter picks can only be arranged in parks and open spaces, play areas and on residential roads.</p> <p>Only arrange litter picks which could involve parents and their children at locations where participants are safely separated from the road either by distance or by a physical barrier such as a fence or hedge. Parents should be offered a high visibility vest for their children to aid monitoring.</p> <p>An adult only litter pick can be arranged near residential roads, but attendees should be provided with a high visibility vest, and advised not to clear any litter from the road, to work facing the traffic, and not to approach within 0.5m of the roadside if the speed limit is 40mph or over.</p> <p>If the litter pick takes place on or near farmland the potential hazard list should include the presence of agricultural machinery and if its near a cycle track the presence of cyclists.</p>
<p>Needles. Batteries, asbestos and miscellaneous chemicals.</p> <p>Broken glass or objects with sharp/rusty edges.</p> <p>Heavy/awkward to handle rubbish.</p> <p>Dog faeces.</p>	<p>Cuts and infections, Potentially dangerous depending on condition</p> <p>Cuts and infections</p> <p>Pulled muscles and sprains</p> <p>Toxocara canis</p>	Volunteer	<p>All attendees should be advised at the start of the litter pick that they should not approach or remove any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broken Glass</li> <li>• Dog Fouling or dead animals</li> <li>• Dumped rubbish / fly tipping</li> <li>• Full litter or dog waste bins</li> <li>• Graffiti or fly posters</li> <li>• Potentially hazardous material, e.g. asbestos</li> <li>• Drug/health related waste/needles etc.</li> <li>• Heavy Items</li> </ul> <p>They should inform the event organiser if they see these items and the organiser will note the object and location and make a report to the council who can arrange for safe removal (North Herts District Council Waste and Recycling Services, contacts 0800</p>

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			<p>328 6023, services@north- herts.gov.uk).</p> <p><b>Attendees shall be provided with suitable gloves and advised they should be worn at all times.</b></p> <p><b>Attendees shall be provided with a litter picker and advised that sharp objects or objects in overgrown areas should be picked up with the litter picker.</b></p> <p>If a participant is accidentally exposed to pesticides, insecticides or other chemicals any label details will be recorded and medical attention sought.</p> <p>If participant accidentally come into contact with faeces or dead animals they should be advised not to touch eyes or mouth and they should wash the contaminated area immediately. <b>Plastic Free Letchworth will take adequate soap and water for washing if the venue has not got appropriate facilities.</b></p>
Ground conditions, e.g. steep slopes, roots	Sprains, muscle damage and broken bones.	Volunteer	<p>Identify any hazards before the litter pick starts on volunteer safety notices (e.g roads/cycle ways, thorny bushes, low branches, uneven ground, hidden banks) and advise attendees to avoid dangerous areas and choose the safest possible route over difficult ground.</p> <p>Advertising for the event should state the area to be covered in the litter pick so volunteers can wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the terrain.</p>
People, lone working	Physical or verbal assault	Volunteer	<p>Be aware of aggressive and difficult people and in the event of a problem advise other volunteers to withdraw rather than face conflict.</p> <p>Advise participants not to work out of sight of others in the group.</p> <p><b>Organiser/section leader to have mobile phone.</b></p> <p>Stay off private property.</p>
Animals – Domestic, wild and farm	Lymes Disease carried by animal ticks and bites/scratches from animals	Volunteer	<p>Advise people not to touch animals by adding a Don't touch the 'Animal types' in the safety notice. Ask anyone attending with a dog to keep it on a lead. In the event someone is bitten or scratched medical attention should be sought as soon as possible.</p>
Waterborne	Weil's Disease from	Volunteer	<p>Advise volunteers not to touch dead animals in the safety notice. Advise volunteers to</p>

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diseases	rat's urine		cover any cuts or sores with a waterproof plaster before carrying out a litter pick. Advise volunteers in hazard list of any streams or ponds and tell them not to put hand in to collect rubbish but notify the co-ordinator for the council to clean.
Adverse weather E.g. Thunder storms	Various health issues	Volunteer	In the event of extreme weather conditions, the litter pick will be postponed or abandoned.
Water	Hypothermia, drowning.	Volunteer	Advise volunteers to avoid banks, especially if they appear unstable and to always work in pairs if close to water Advise volunteers with children not to work near the water. Adults should be cautious and non- swimmer advised not to litter pick near water.
Trees, shrubs, Hedges, fences, walls, ditches	Trips, falls, cuts and eye injuries and electric shock.	Volunteer	Ask volunteers to stay within the nominated location and to avoid climbing walls, ditches and fences. Make participants aware of low hanging branches and exposed tree and shrub roots. Always assume electric fences are live and warn volunteers not to touch electric fences
Tools, equipment		Volunteer	Volunteers to be shown how to use equipment. Any volunteers using equipment in a way which could injure others will have the equipment removed and be asked to leave the event. Appropriate protection. e.g. gloves and high visibility vests, should be provided.
Irritants, dangerous plants	Poisoning, skin irritations or allergic reactions	Volunteer	Gloves will be provided to participants. If the chosen site is known to have lots of vegetation the invitation to the event should advise wearing protective clothes. If dangerous plants are known to be on the site identify these to participants and explain the risks. Medical attention for unusual or suspicious symptoms after contact with vegetation will be sought and a photo taken of the vegetation.

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Rubbish sacks and equipment left in wrong location.	Trips and falls.	Member of the public.	A location for rubbish bags will be agreed with NHDC prior to the litter pick and all volunteers will be informed where to bring their bags and return their equipment.
Safeguarding	Child is left unsupervised at the event.	Volunteer.	<p>Plastic Free Letchworth is not registered as a charity working with children and its members are not CRB checked. Children taking part in the litter pick are under the care of their responsible adult and volunteers must not accept responsibility for any children. Responsible adults must decide to what extent they will allow their child to participate in the litter pick. If a lost child comes to a volunteer, then they will be looked after by at least two volunteers whilst others try to locate and contact their responsible adult. If the situation is not resolved quickly the police will be contacted.</p> <p>No identifiable photographs will be taken of member of the public's children at the event and volunteers permission will be asked before taking photographs of their children.</p>
Staff Welfare	Inadequate break or access to food / drink / toilets	Volunteer	The event will be planned to last no more than 3 hours and people can arrive / depart at any point.
Too many attendees	More people attend than are covered by insurance	Volunteer	The amount of people who can be involved in a litter picking must be below 100 for Plastic Free Letchworth insurance to be valid. Up to 100 gloves will be taken to an event and any additional participants must be turned away if these are all used up.
Minor injury	Cuts and abrasions	Volunteer	<p><b>Plastic Free Letchworth will have a first aid kit and at least one member with first aid training will be present.</b></p> <p>Minor cuts and abrasions should be cleaned and dressed as soon as possible.</p> <p>Medical attention will be sought for any serious cuts, bruises or strains.</p>