

E-A-S-I

Earley Adopt-a-Street Initiative

Autumn 2023 Newsletter

Earley's Litter and Recycling Group

Welcome to EASI's Autumn 2023 Newsletter. With over 300 members, EASI has kept up its good work in keeping Earley's streets clear of litter throughout the summer. We are now into Autumn when the nights will be getting darker and the weather conditions less favourable for litter picking. Please ensure that you are safe when picking throughout the Autumn and Winter by wearing hi-viz if you can and keeping warm and dry. This edition of the EASI Newsletter has been extended to 3-pages as there is so much litter-picking, waste collection and recycling news. We feature the Earley Green Fair, the annual Autumn Litter Pick, and news from several local litter-picks, as well as the changes to waste and recycling services proposed by Wokingham Borough Council.

Membership

EASI's membership currently stands at around **323** litter pickers. We were delighted to gain several new members at the Earley Town Council's Green Fair in August (see below), and EASI Committee member **Brenda Hill** has continued to contact members to see if they are still able to litter-pick their adopted streets, and to ensure that our records are up-to-date. There are currently **15** streets in Earley needing new volunteer litter-pickers, some of which can be grouped together. If you are able to take on any of the streets listed below, or know anyone who would be willing to take them on, or to share streets or work as a group, please get in touch at easilittergroup@gmail.com

• Alder Close	• Barbel Close off Rosedale Crescent
• Cinnamon Close + path to Whiteknights School	• Clove Close
• Coriander Way	• Fowler Close
• Milton Road	• Nutmeg Close
• Pimento Drive from Mint Close to north end of Pimento Drive	• Redhatch Drive from Radstock Lane to Beech Lane
• Rosedale Crescent, Shepherds Hill	• Rushey Way from Chalfont Way to Newquay Drive
• Tamarind Way	• Tarragon Close
• Wheelton Close off Skelmerdale Way	

Earley Green Fair – 5th August



Despite the rain, the EASI stall at this year's Earley Green Fair attracted a lot of interest from existing and new litter-pickers. EASI Committee Member **Tracy Collins** (left with husband Bob) was 'top recruiter' for new members with the result that, by the end of the afternoon, all streets were covered by pickers. EASI received many complimentary comments from local residents. We are grateful to all who litter-pick for EASI. Committee Member **Chris Bassett** (right) sheltering from the rain at the EASI stall.



Litter Picking News

The Earley Autumn Litter Pick - 2023

In association with **Earley Town Council** and the **Earley Environmental Group**, **EASI** took part in the **Autumn Litter Pick** held on Wednesday 11th October. Unlike previous years, the litter-pick could not take place along the River Thames near Thames Valley Park because the path along the Thames at the River Kennet was partly closed for engineering works, so the litter picking was moved to Riverside Park along the River Loddon.

Aldryngton School Litterbugs

In association with the PTA, the school has established a Litterbug Club for the school's 'Litter Heroes'. The Litter Heroes get a free badge and promise card after submitting their poster on 'Why it is important that we should pick up litter'. There will be monthly litter picks on the school grounds. **Well Done, Aldryngton!**

Trinity Junior Litter Pick – Report by Andrew Mickleburgh



On Sunday 24th September, almost 40 children from our **Hong Kong community Sunday School at Trinity Church, Earley**, helped to keep nearby streets free from litter. Ten-year-old Elim said, "Our environment is so important, and we wanted to do our bit, alongside the many hundreds of residents who help to pick litter in our community. We also had great fun and I would like to do this again." Her Friends Natalie and Mia added, "We were amazed at what a difference it made. We collected over

eight full bags of litter! We will now be even more careful to make sure that we always take our litter home with us, or put it in the public litter bins." Organiser **Mandy Lau** thanked the children and **EASI** for providing the necessary equipment - "I was so proud of our children and what they achieved."

Bulmershe Field Community Litter Pick – Report by Mary Bather

On the morning of Saturday, 28th October, the Friends of **Bulmershe Open Space (FoBOS)** joined forces with **EASI**, **Woodley Adopt a Street Project (WASP)**, **Association of Central Earley Residents (ACER)** and **local councillors** to undertake a litter pick of Bulmershe Field, part of Church Road and Woodlands Avenue. We were lucky to have the additional help of a number of families from **Sonning Primary School**, some of whom live in Earley, but others had come from as far away as Winnersh. This area gets heavily littered due to the regularly overflowing bins on Woodlands Avenue (the litter from which blows across the field), the traffic on Church Road and Woodlands Avenue, pedestrians walking to and from school and the parked cars in the lay-bys. Local residents regularly walk round the field to remove litter but we try to organise a community pick at least twice a year. Thanks to all those who supported this event, and particular thanks to **EASI** for the loan of the equipment, **WASP** and **EASI** members who came along to help, **Shirley Boyt** (FoBOS) for organising posters and leaflets, **Jane at WBC** for organising bag collection and the children of Sonning Primary who brought their parents along to lend a hand.

Recycling and Waste Collection News

Wheeled Bins: By August 2024, **Wokingham Borough Council's** planned changes to rubbish collection will see most households putting their rubbish out in a 180-litre **black wheeled bin**, which will be emptied fortnightly; replacing the current weekly blue bag collections. The bins will hold the equivalent of about two full blue bags. Not all properties are suitable for wheeled bins, so alternative arrangements will be made in some cases.

Green Recycling Bags: These are free and there are no limits on how many can be put out. Collection frequency will be changing to fortnightly on the weeks when rubbish isn't collected. Additional green recycling bags can be picked up from Wokingham Borough Council's office at Shute End, at WBC libraries in Woodley, Lower Earley and Carnival Hub or from Earley Town Council. They can also be ordered on WBC's Website, and they will be delivered within 15 working days.



Food Waste and Garden Waste Containers: weekly food waste collections and optional fortnightly garden waste collections will continue at the same frequency, and from the same containers.

The next steps to implementing the changes are:

- **February and March** - every household will be given 20 additional blue rubbish bags to keep them going until the new system begins.
- **May onwards** - bins will be rolled out to residents. Residents will be asked **not** to use the wheeled bin until they are given guidance on when they should do so and on what days.
- **August** - Full collection schedule in operation.

Information taken from Wokingham Borough Council's Website: <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/waste-collection/waste-collection-changes-coming-summer-2024>

Council's Litter Bin Removal Plans

Wokingham Borough Council's proposal to remove litter bins in the borough has been put on hold while the council explores other ways of making much-needed savings. EASI wrote to its members in August asking them to consider responding to the Council's consultation on its proposal to remove bins, and to reduce cleaning and grass cutting services. The proposals included the reduction in the number of litter bins across the borough, removing 150 (about 14%), of which 37 are in Earley. Some litter bins had already been covered by black bin liners to prevent their use, which have now been removed, but the council had, apparently, not fully followed its consultation process and the survey of local residents' views was then undertaken.

At a meeting on 26 October, the council agreed not to go ahead with the proposed reductions following feedback from its recent public consultation. Other forms of cost-saving measures will, we understand, be going ahead; including changes in the frequency of street sweeping, cleaning of areas around bottle banks, weed spraying and grass cutting. The EASI Committee remains concerned over the unnecessary removal of waste bins, as this will create litter and increase the burden on local volunteers; whilst encouraging people to take their litter home tends to be ineffective. Information taken from Wokingham Borough Council's Website:

<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/news/2023/litter-bin-closure-plans-set-aside-look-alternatives>

Recycling Directory and Contacting EASI



The EASI Recycling database can be found on the **Earley Environment Group Website** under 'Environment' and 'Recycling in Earley – an updated guide'. The link is:

<http://www.earleyenvironmentalgroup.co.uk/Environment/NewRecyclingInEarley.asp>

The **EASI Committee Members** are Chris Bassett, Tracy Collins, Bob Collis, Brian Hackett, Grahame Hawker, Brenda Hill, Stephen Kerry and Richard Tredgett. We are looking for an EASI member who is interested in recycling to take on the role of updating EASI's Newsletter and the EEG Website with information on local recycling schemes. Contact us on EASI's **Email** address: easilittergroup@gmail.com, or visit the EASI **Facebook Page** 'EASI Litter Pickers – Earley'. Information about waste recycling and reporting substantial amounts of dumped rubbish or fly-tipping can be found, as follows:

- **general information** about rubbish and recycling at <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/>
- **report fly-tipping** <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/waste-collection/fly-tipping>

the **'Fix-My-Street' App** which can also be used to report excessive litter, fly-tipping, etc.

<https://www.fixmystreet.com/>