

E-A-S-I

Earley Adopt-a-Street Initiative

Summer 2024 Newsletter

Welcome to EASI's Summer 2024 Newsletter. EASI's litter pickers have continued to keep many of Earley's streets and paths free of litter throughout a damp and chilly spring and early summer. Well done to all who have kept their litter picking going. This edition of the EASI Newsletter features our new guidance on keeping safe when litter picking and the latest news from Wokingham Borough Council on its imminent changes to waste and recycling services, as well as Earley Town Council's new repair café.

Membership

EASI's membership currently stands at 313 volunteer litter pickers. Thank you to those who have joined as a new member and to those who have taken on additional streets. 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. Several litter pickers have not been able to pick their streets for some time and we are now looking for 36 streets to be adopted, some of which can be grouped together. If you are able to take on additional streets, or know anyone who would be willing to take them on, to share streets or work as a group, please get in touch at easilittergroup@gmail.com

Earley Town Council's Green Fair

EASI will be holding a stall at this year's Green Fair on **Saturday 3rd August**. Please come along and meet the committee members on the stall and tell us about your litter picking experiences – good or bad. The list of the streets that need to be adopted will be on display – you may find that you can sign up for neighbouring streets, but also let us know if you are unable to continue picking your allotted street. We are also keen to find out where there are litter hotspots or regular fly-tipping, and you can also request new litter picking equipment. The Fair will be held between 10am and 3pm on the small field at the end of Maiden Erlegh Lake just off Beech Lane.



Litter Picking News

We want to ensure that all our litter pickers keep safe when litter picking. We have therefore revised the **EASI Guidelines** to Litter Picking to include more advice on what to do and what not to do when litter picking. The revised guidance is given at the end of this Newsletter. Here are some key tips to help keep you safe, but please read the guidelines to make sure you are aware of when, where and how it is best to litter pick.

- **Always wear gloves.** Wash your hands afterward litter picking, even after wearing gloves. Also, wear suitably strong footwear and high visibility clothing; such as a yellow tabard or jacket if you have them.
- **Litter pick in daylight and suitable weather.** If you can, let someone else know when and where you will be litter-picking and carry a mobile phone in case of emergency.
- **Be aware of passing traffic.** This includes cyclists and e-scooters that might be using either the road or the footway. Minimise the need to cross the road, but pay particular care when you do need to cross the road. Do not pick litter on the road.

- **Litter pick on public land only.** Don't reach into people's gardens to pick litter, and take extra care when near ponds, lakes, rivers or flooded areas. Do not pick litter pick from these.
- **Do not touch or handle hazardous items.** This includes sharps, needles and broken glass. There are more items to avoid listed in the guidelines.

Remember that you are working entirely at your own risk, so please be careful.

Recycling and Waste Collection News



Wokingham Borough Council's July Residents' Round-Up item on Rubbish and Recycling summarises progress on the council's proposed changes to waste and collection. The council is delivering 67,000 180-litre black wheeled rubbish bins to households across the borough. The switch to the wheeled bins will be starting in the week beginning **Monday 12 August**. A leaflet showing the new timings for waste collection is being delivered through household letter boxes. **Waste collection** days for each household should stay unchanged, but the collections from the new wheeled bins will be fortnightly

rather than weekly as with the current blue bag collection. The council will collect from one rubbish bin for each household. The bin lid must be shut, and no additional general waste left at the side. **Recycling** will also be collected fortnightly, on the weeks when rubbish isn't collected. This will be from the usual green bags. There will be no limit on how much recycling can be put out. If possible, residents should wash and squash their recycling to make best use of space in their green bags. **Food waste** will still be collected weekly. You can pick up a food bin or extra green bags free of charge from the borough's collection hubs if you need them. The following link will take you to the waste container collection hub locations and opening times: <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/waste-collection/waste-container-collection-hubs>



Earley Town Council has announced that it will be opening a **Repair Café** in September at the **Centrepoint Community Centre** near Trinity Church in Lower Earley. The café will be open on the **second Sunday of the month**. The café will be run by volunteers with skills in repairing items such as domestic appliances, bikes, clothes, tools, laptops, clocks, suitcases, bags and toys. Many of these items would have been thrown away but with a little bit of help can continue to be used; avoiding landfill or a costly replacement. There will be no charge for the repair service, but donations will be welcome. There will also be refreshments available, and visitors will be able to watch repairs taking place. The

Council is looking for volunteers with skills in repairing items, and also volunteers to work on reception/registration and to help in the café. More information can be found on our website: <https://www.earley-tc.gov.uk/earley-repair-cafe/>

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. Contact us on EASI's **Email** address: esilittergroup@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/>

(EASI) EARLEY LITTER PICKERS (EASI)

Guidelines

(July 2024)

Thank you for volunteering to pick up litter in your chosen street or neighbouring part of Earley. With your help we can make our town a more attractive place for everyone to live in. It's entirely up to you when and how often you go out to achieve a worthwhile result.

- ◆ Some of the advice below may seem obvious, but your safety takes priority. If other people go litter-picking with you, make them aware of the possible hazards too and supervise any children at all times.
- ◆ Remember that you are working entirely at your own risk, so please be careful.
- ◆ Wear suitably strong footwear, a high visibility yellow vest and gloves. Always look where you are going. Do not pick litter whilst crossing a road and do not overreach into trees or hedgerows where you might overbalance.
- ◆ Do not lift any items which are too heavy or large to go in a bin bag. These should be left where they are and reported as fly-tipping (see below). Finish litter picking whilst your bag can still be easily carried home, or put it in a street rubbish bin.
- ◆ Go out only in daylight and suitable weather. Dress appropriately for the weather and consider carrying a mobile phone in case of emergency.
- ◆ Choose a route which minimises the need to cross roads and pick busier roads at quieter times. Pay particular care when crossing roads. Avoid wearing headphones so that you can hear car horns and bicycle bells. Do not pick litter which is on the road, but report it (see below).
- ◆ Use the litter-picker for all items. Never pick up things by hand. Always wash your hands thoroughly after each outing, particularly before touching your face, disinfect the picker and put the gloves in the washing machine.
- ◆ Do not touch or handle hazardous items, including, but not limited to, sharps, needles, broken glass, nitrous oxide containers, condoms, suspect bottles with contents, human waste, canisters, oil drums, poisons, insecticides, clinical waste, hazardous substances or dead animals. These should be left untouched and reported (see below).
- ◆ Do not enter any water, eg ponds, lakes, rivers or flooded areas and take extra care if picking along river banks and edges of water. Do not pick litter from floodwater as it may be contaminated.
- ◆ Work only on public land, not on private property (e.g. reaching into front gardens).
- ◆ If someone is abusive, retreat to safety rather than confronting them.
- ◆ The litter which you collect should be added to your household waste bin, if you have space, or you can contact us to ask for some green Adopt-a-Street bags to be delivered.
- ◆ Separating out the usual recyclable items is a good idea, but only if this can be done safely. For reasons of hygiene, keep the filled bags and the litter-picker tool out of the house.
- ◆ Reports about fly-tipping and hazardous items should be made to Wokingham Borough Council at www.wokingham.gov.uk or at www.fixmystreet.com (there is also a user-friendly app of the same name).
- ◆ If you have any questions, contact Brian Hackett (986 1115) — or you can email us, of course: easilittergroup@gmail.com to sort out equipment problems, or if you feel like reducing (or even increasing) your litter picking patch.
- ◆ Don't worry about overlapping with neighbouring EASI-members a bit — it all helps! And if you find a lot of litter on your patch (e.g. after returning from holiday), give us a call and we should be able to rally the troops to help.
- ◆ Remember: your target isn't a perfectly clean street at all times, but simply one that looks nicer than it otherwise would — because of

EASI !

No longer able to pick?

We realise that circumstances change and you might need to stop picking. If so, thank you for what you have already done. Please let us know at easilittergroup@gmail.com that you are no longer able to pick, what equipment you have and how we can collect it from you (we rely on charitable grants to buy this). In order to ensure that as many streets as possible in Earley are being covered, we regularly update our database. Please help us by responding to emails/telephone calls asking if you are still able to pick.