

(EASI) EARLEY LITTER PICKERS (EASI)

Guidelines

(Sept 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. We cannot and do not accept liability for any injuries sustained by you whilst litter picking. However, EASI volunteers are insured in respect of third party claims for damage or injury through Wokingham Borough Council's public liability insurance.
- ◆ We recommend that you wear suitably strong footwear, a high visibility 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 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.
- ◆ 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).
- ◆ 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 (0118 986 1115), or you can email us at easilittergroup@gmail.com to sort out equipment problems, or if you want to reduce (or even increase) 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.