

# Earley Adopt-a-Street Initiative

(E A S I)

## Guidelines

(January 2023)

- ◆ 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 may seem obvious, but your safety takes priority. If other people go litter-picking with you, especially children, make them aware of the possible hazards too.
- ◆ Remember that you are working entirely at your own risk: we haven't been able to arrange insurance, and our councils can't take responsibility for any injuries, so please be careful. Go out only in daylight, and wear bright clothing, suitably strong shoes and gloves.
- ◆ If you are picking alongside a busy road, or on a cycle-path, it's essential that you wear the high-visibility yellow vest we offer you. In any case you need always to be aware of any approaching traffic (so don't wear headphones). Avoid stepping into the road to pick up litter.
- ◆ Work only on public land, not on private property (e.g. reaching into front gardens). Take great care if on a slope or poking into hedges etc. If you can't safely reach something with the litter-picker tool, leave it.
- ◆ Use the litter-picker for all items. Never pick up things by hand. Take particular care with face masks and wet wipes which should never be touched, even with gloves. Always wash your hands thoroughly after each outing, disinfect the picker and put the gloves in the wash.
- ◆ You may find it easier to collect the litter in a smaller bag or similar. The pickings can then be tipped into any large council litter-bin (as long as you don't nearly fill it), otherwise empty your bag afterwards into a larger one for putting out with your weekly refuse: if you have blue bags to spare, use these, otherwise contact us for some green Adopt-a-Street bags to be delivered.
- ◆ Separating out the usual recyclable items is a good idea, but don't feel obliged to do this. For reasons of hygiene, keep the filled bags and the litter-picker tool out of the house.
- ◆ Collect broken glass with great care, and preferably with a dustpan & brush, placing it in a suitable container such as a cardboard box, not straight in a bag. Do not touch other dangerous items, for example dog faeces or hypodermic needles, or anything you are unsure of. If you find a needle, cover it up if possible, and report it to Wokingham Borough Council for immediate collection (mentioning that you belong to EASI). The phone number is 974 6000, or you can use the website: [www.wokingham.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk).
- ◆ Large items, or bags or piles of fly-tipped rubbish should also be reported — don't attempt to deal with them yourself. If you see any other problems, such as graffiti or damaged manhole covers, or overflowing litter bins you can greatly assist by reporting them too. The easiest way to do this is at [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com) (there is also a user-friendly app of the same name).
- ◆ If you are carrying one of our leaflets, give it to anyone who asks what you are doing — and suggest they could be doing the same. But definitely do not get into any arguments with litter-droppers! Just try to leave the place looking better for them as for everyone else, and then they are less likely to drop more items there.
- ◆ If you have any questions, contact Brian Hackett (986 1115) — or you can email us, of course: [easilittergroup@gmail.com](mailto:easilittergroup@gmail.com) to sort out equipment problems, or if you feel like reducing (or even increasing) your length of EASI-street.
- ◆ 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](mailto: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.