

HSFORM RA01 Risk Assessment Community Litter Picking Volunteers

Assessment Ref: CE 001

The Council has a comprehensive Health & Safety policy that covers all employees. It holds adequate Public Liability Insurance for a variety of activities carried out by a local authority.

Risk Rating Matrix

Severity	3	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH
	2	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH
	1	Low	MEDIUM	MEDIUM
		1	2	3
		Likelihood		

Severity

- 1 Slight Injuries requiring first aid and minor ill health effects
- 2 Serious Injuries causing absence of more than three days of significant health effect
- 3 Major Death, or major injury (RIDDOR) or irreversible health damage

Likelihood

- 1 Low Harm will seldom occur
- 2 Medium Harm will frequently occur
- 3 High Certain or near certain harm will occur

Risk Rating = Severity x Likelihood

Risk assessments and management

<u>Task/activity assessed:</u> Community Clear Up covers a number of street based cleaning activities, which involves other Council departments and voluntary groups including local traders and individuals. This covers works on street and in parks/open spaces and will involve litter picking.		Date completed: Date: 11th April 2019		Date to be Reviewed: Date: April 2020	
		Staffing: - Volunteers			
Step 1 – Identify the Hazards	Step 2 – Identify who might be harmed and how	Step 3 – Evaluate the risks and implement control measures			
		Existing control measures	Risk Rating	New/additional control measures	Revised Risk Rating

Highways vehicles, bicycles, plant and machinery.	Collision with moving traffic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STREET CLEANING • At all times be mindful of your environment and the traffic conditions, pedestrian and vehicular, in which volunteers, partners and council are working. This will apply if working in the Leisure Centre Car Park or on any highway outside the park or footpath. • Work facing traffic • Avoid close proximity to traffic if possible. • Stay off the carriageway. Do not approach within 0.5m of the roadside if the speed limit is 40mph or over on a single carriageway. • Be alert to the potential presence of buses • Wear high visibility clothing of the relevant standard if on or near the highway. The highway includes footpaths and verges. • Be aware of the vehicles around you during the litter pick. • Keep a look out • Children under 16 should not work by the roadside. • PARK AND CEMETERY • At all times be aware of the ground condition which may be wet or uneven • 	1	Seek medical attention in the event of injury if life threatening call 999.	
Needles	Cuts and infections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave alone and report to Harrow Council authorised staff to dispose of in sharps container using litter grabber. 	1	Seek medical attention where appropriate.	

Broken glass, sharp/rusty edges.	Cuts and infections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable gloves to be worn at all times. • Use litter grabbers to pick up sharp objects. • Broken glass or other sharp objects should be swept onto a shovel or picked up with a scoop or litter picker. • Gloves will be supplied to all volunteers. 	1	Seek medical attention where appropriate. Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor.	
Heavy or Awkward to handle rubbish.	Pulled muscles and strains.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the weight of any load before handling. Extreme care to be taken, use good lifting practises and share the load with an appropriate number of people. • If too heavy to handle leave it and report to a Harrow Council employee. • Do not leave sacks of litter or sweepings where they will be a danger. 	1	Stop immediately if suffering any pain or discomfort. Seek medical attention if the ill effects persist.	

Batteries, asbestos and miscellaneous chemicals.	Potentially dangerous depending on condition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not approach or remove any potentially hazardous waste. Report to Harrow Council Employee for disposal. 	1	Seek medical attention if exposed to pesticides, insecticides or other chemicals – record any label details.	
Ground conditions	Sprains, muscle damage and broken bones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid dangerous areas and choose the safest possible route over difficult ground. Instruct all parties to wear suitable footwear. 	1	Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor. Seek medical attention for any serious cuts, bruises or strains.	
People, lone working.	Physical or verbal assault.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of aggressive and difficult people. Withdraw rather than face conflict. Do not work out of sight of others in the group. Organiser/section leader to have mobile phone. Keep together and stay off private property. 	1	Seek medical attention following any assault/injury notify police.	

Animals – Domestic, wild and farm.	Lyme's Disease carried by animal ticks and bites/scratches from animals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear appropriate clothing • Beware of loose dogs • Avoid contact with animals. Avoid contact with animal faeces. 	1	<p>Seek medical attention as soon as possible after being bitten or scratched.</p> <p>Wash hands immediately after contact with faeces. Avoid touching eyes or mouth.</p>	
Waterborne diseases	Weil's Disease from rat's urine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not touch dead animals • Cover any cuts or sores with a waterproof plaster before carrying out a litter pick. • Avoid getting hands wet in rivers, ponds, canals, puddles or drains. 	1	<p>Seek medical attention where appropriate.</p> <p>Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor.</p>	

Dog faeces	Toxocara Canis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not touch dog faeces Always wear gloves and use a shovel when removing dog faeces. 	1	Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor. Seek medical attention where appropriate.	
Adverse weather E.g. Snow or Thunder	Various health issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cease work in inappropriate conditions. Avoid working in extreme conditions. Dress for conditions and carry additional clothing. In the event of extreme weather conditions the litter pick should be postponed or abandoned. 	1	Seek medical attention where appropriate.	
Hedges, fences, walls, ditches.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take care when climbing stiles particularly in wet weather. Avoid climbing walls, ditches and fences. Stay within the nominated location. 	1		
Trees. shrubs	Trips, cuts and eye injuries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be alert to the risks and keep a look out for hazards. Be aware of low hanging branches and exposed tree and shrub roots. 	1	Obtain medical attention in the event of injury.	

On Completion of Litter Picking Ensure:

- Everyone washes their hands thoroughly as soon as possible after the litter pick and before eating or drinking.
- Any wounds are redressed after cleaning and disinfecting if there has been any contact with water.
- Volunteers carry out a personal inspection for cuts, grazes etc.
- That the area covered is inspected to see if there is any hazardous material still present. If so inform Council staff.
- All volunteers have reported back
- All rubbish for collection has been left in the arranged pick up site.

Before starting Litter Picking

Have the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – e.g. suitable gloves, hi-visibility vest, sensible footwear, weather appropriate clothing, etc.

Have the correct equipment – e.g. Litter pickers, plastic bags, dog waste bags, brush, shovel. etc., and know how to use the equipment.

Consider all the risks and hazards in the work area, e.g. hazardous waste, broken glass, dog waste, vomit, needles, condoms and roads/cycle ways, thorny bushes, low branches, uneven ground, hidden banks, etc.

Know the work area and how to; report incidents or hazardous or unidentified waste, where to get first aid, meet on completion, deposit bags of waste and mark bags containing sharp material e.g broken glass.

Event Organiser: