

# Beckingham Parish Council

Lincolnshire

Chairman: Lawrence Tatton

[www.beckinghamvillage.co.uk](http://www.beckinghamvillage.co.uk)

## CODE OF PRACTICE FOR VOLUNTEERS

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Individuals and groups acting as volunteers in the fight against litter recognise the potential harm that litter causes to the environment and also the possible injury litter can cause to people, domestic pets and wildlife. However, there are a number of easily avoided hazards to which volunteers could be exposed. The following principles and practices are designed to make litter picking a safe and enjoyable one and should be applied at all times.

### 2. PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

The following items of equipment should be used at all times by volunteers undertaking litter picks

- reflective bibs to clearly highlight volunteers to the public and traffic.
- gloves to minimise risk of contact with noxious substances.
- stout footwear and suitable outdoor clothing that doesn't leave bare areas of skin.

The bibs, gloves and litter pickers will be supplied by the Council.

### 3. NOXIOUS AND DANGEROUS MATERIALS

The following items may be encountered during a litter pick and should be dealt with as follows

Broken glass: collect using either a litter picker or brush and shovel avoiding contact by hand and place in a stout cardboard box or container in quantities that can be easily lifted and moved. The Council will supply limited quantities of brushes and shovels if required

Hypodermic needles: these should not be moved under any circumstances and their location reported to the Parish Council.

Suspect materials: items that are possibly dangerous such as unknown liquids in containers should not be handled by volunteers.

### 4. GENERAL SITE SAFETY AND INSPECTION

Working on areas beside roads should be restricted to those within 40 MPH limits and only then where there is a pedestrian footway separating the road from the site. Work should not be undertaken next to deep or fast flowing water or steep slopes. Where the site isn't owned by the Parish Council, the landowners express permission should be obtained before undertaking any litter picking and any local hazards should be clearly identified. Specific attention should be paid to sharps, Wasp & Bee nests, trip hazards and harmful substances.

Where working next to hedges and shrubs and undergrowth, avoid reaching in such a way as to expose the face, eyes and skin to scratches from thorns or broken branches. If the item of litter can't be safely reached with a litter picker, leave it.

Do not attempt to enter an area where work is being undertaken such as a building site.

## 5. LIFTING AND HANDLING MATERIALS

Volunteers should be aware of the risk of injury by attempting to lift and carry heavy materials and carrying bags of collected litter. Only try to move an item if this can be done so without straining

Make sure an item is safe with no sharp edges or noxious contents and use litter pickers to prevent constant bending and stretching. Make sure the ground conditions won't cause a slip or fall while carrying.

## 6. SUMMARY

Always apply the principal of working in a safe manner and remember that, as a volunteer you have a duty towards yourself, and the general public to act responsibly and safely. If in any doubt at all about the possible hazards of a site, situation or material, avoid it and move onto something that clearly presents no hazard.

## 7. FORM OF INDEMNITY

Volunteers should not to participate in this initiative unless they are able to meet, accept and agree to follow these guidelines and understand that participation is at their own risk. Beckingham Parish Council has endeavoured to make this guidance informative but makes no warranties or representation, express or implied, as to the accuracy or completeness of the information contained or referenced herein. Beckingham Parish Council will not be held liable for any direct, indirect, special, consequential or other loss or damage that results from volunteers' participation in this initiative unless it has been negligent

This Code of Practice for Volunteers was adopted by Beckingham Parish Council at a meeting of the Council held on 16th March 2016