

This Risk Assessment covers the hazards associated with volunteers litter picking in the community on **Solihull MBC land only**. It is to be used as guidance when volunteers are undertaking activities without the supervision of a Solihull Metropolitan Borough Officer.

This Risk Assessment should be used in conjunction with the Love Solihull Community Litter Picking Guidelines. Activities that do not follow these guidelines are carried out at your own risk.

If you require further clarification or have any questions or feedback relating to this risk assessment, then please get in touch.

If you are involved in an incident or accident that has resulted in ill health or injury or if you are involved in an event where no harm has been caused, but had the potential to cause injury or ill health then please report this to the Love Solihull team at the earliest opportunity: 0121 704 8000 or email lovesolihull@solihull.gov.uk.

Impact/severity	High	Amber	Amber	Red
	Med	Green	Amber	Amber
	Low	Green	Green	Green
		Low	Med	High
	Likelihood			

Community Litter Picking										
			Initial risk			Control Measures; (existing controls / precautions) should be considered.	Net Risk			
Hazard	Risk Description / Hazardous Event	Persons at Risk	Likelihood	Impact / Severity	Risk Level	Preventative & Protective Measures; (IP) = measures in place; (TP) = measures to be put in place / date of completion.	Likelihood	Impact / Severity	Risk Level	Owner
Slips, trips and falls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uneven surface area. Equipment and/or waste bags left lying around site. Inappropriate footwear. 	Volunteers and members of public	H	M	Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (IP) If possible, undertake prior site inspections to identify hazardous ground that is to be avoided on litter pick (IP) If necessary temporary hazards are to be highlighted by signage until hazard is removed (IP) Designate an area to keep all tools and equipment when they are not in use (IP) Wear appropriate sturdy footwear. (IP) Ensure footpaths are kept clear during works. Remove waste to pre-designated area following work. Take extra care in overgrown, rocky or wet/muddy areas 	M	L	Green	Love Solihull

Lost child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children litter picking, wandering off, and getting lost or abducted 	Children litter picking	L	H	Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (IP) All volunteers to remain vigilant for any suspicious behaviour by members of the public – report to the police if necessary (IP) No child under 16 years of age to participate in litter pick without supervision by parent or guardian (IP) Child/s parent/s or guardian/s to remain with child at all times 	L	H	Amber	Love Solihull
Manual Handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moving heavy or awkwardly shaped items Heavy object landing on foot causing break or bruising 	Volunteers	M	M	Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (IP) Do not overfill bags (IP) Before attempting to move bag assess the weight and whether more people are required to lift it. (IP) If available use lifting equipment to help transport item (IP) If there are not the necessary resources to move item then do not attempt to move it (IP) Consider wearing steel toe cap boots – these will not be provided. If unsure about footwear avoid moving heavy objects. 	L	M	Green	Love Solihull
Hand tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorrect use of litter picking equipment may lead to injuries 	Volunteers and members of the public	H	M	Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (IP) All members of working party are advised by group lead on safe usage of litter picking equipment (IP) All tools assessed by group lead prior to use to ensure they are in safe working order. (IP) Ensure operatives are not working in too close proximity to each other and remain aware of their surroundings (IP) Be vigilant of others using hand tools nearby. 	L	M	Green	Love Solihull

Moving Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hit by a moving vehicle whilst working on or near the highway • Near miss or close proximity drive by whilst working on the highway • Working on or near the roadside 	Volunteers and motorists	M	H	Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (IP) Do not litter pick on roads, roadside verges or next to roads with speed limits over 50mph. • (IP) Minimise instances of crossing the road by assessing site initially to choose best location to undertake the task. • (IP) Use designated pedestrian crossings where available • (IP) If possible work in pairs or groups • (IP) Child/s parent/s or guardian/s to remain with child at all times • (IP) Plan safe route prior to activity taking account of footpath provision, road speed and crossing points. • (IP) Wear orange high-vis vest which meets BS EN 471 (Class 2) standard, as provided by Love Solihull, at all times when working on a footpath next to a road or on a right of way. • (IP) Avoid litter picking after dusk, particularly near roads 	L	M	Green	Love Solihull
Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal and physical abuse • Fire caused by person/s igniting bags awaiting collection 	Volunteers and residents	L	H	Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (IP) If you encounter any aggressive behaviour avoid confrontation and consider leaving the area. Report to Group Lead and/or Love Solihull. Consider reporting to Police. • (IP) Do not attempt to engage with any individual threatening physical violence, leave the area and report to Police immediately. Please also report to Love Solihull. • (IP) If you encounter a knife or weapon please refer to the 'Community Litter Picking Guidelines' and report to the Police • (IP) Bags not to be left next to buildings • (IP) Group leaders to inform Love Solihull when large amounts of bags require collecting. 	L	M	Green	Love Solihull

Lone Working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical situation leading to inability to summon assistance. • Increased potential to become target of physical attack causing harm, injury or death. 	Volunteers	M	H	Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (IP) If volunteering alone tell a friend/family member/ or equivalent where you are so that if anything were to happen to you someone knows where you are. • (IP) Consider the locations you are litter picking in. Try to remain in areas that are open and visible to the public and avoid going into any unlit areas after dark. • Consider joining a local community litter picking group – contact Love Solihull for more information. • Consider carrying a mobile phone with you for emergencies 	L	H	Amber	Love Solihull
Biological hazards including sharps (glass, needles) faeces and urine, asbestos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuts to skin • Risk of infection Discarded needles. • Disease via transfer from hands to mouth 	Volunteers and members of the public	H	M	Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (IP) When litter picking always use an appropriate litter picking tool and recommend double-bagging. • (IP) Recommend gloves be worn at all times. • (IP) Do not pick up unidentified and potentially hazardous waste or handle any bio-hazard (including faeces, knives & syringes). • (IP) Should you find any needles please report to SMBC Connect by calling 0121 704 8000 • (IP) Consider covering any cuts or grazes with a waterproof plaster before carrying out a litter pick. • (IP) Do not move suspected fly-tipping and report to the council or land owner. • (IP) Familiarise yourself with asbestos using this simple asbestos ID chart on the HSE website here: http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/gallery.htm • (IP) Wash hands before eating, drinking, smoking or going to the toilet. 	M	L	Green	Love Solihull

Adverse weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy rain and wind. • Lightning • Heat / Sun Exposure. • Strong winds resulting in falling limbs and/or trees. • Cold and freezing conditions. • Items blowing on to highways causing obstruction 	Volunteers	M	H	Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (IP) In the event of severe weather consider postponing activity. • (IP) In the case of lightning take shelter in buildings or vehicles. Keep clear of trees and open fields. • (IP) Wear sunscreen and hat if possible. Limit exposure to sun. Take regular breaks in shade. • (IP) Ensure adequate amount of water is available. • (IP) Warm clothing. Limit duration of task. Take regular breaks in shelter • (IP) Ensure all lightweight items are secured from wind 	L	M	Green	Love Solihull
Open Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drowning • Pollution of the water course. • Pollution from the water. • Disease including Leptospirosis • Contact with underwater objects. 	Volunteers	M	H	Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (IP) Avoid entering open water to retrieve litter • (IP) When litter picking items from water's edge do not overreach. • (IP) When collecting items from the edge of open water wear waterproof gloves, these will not be provided. • (IP) Never litter pick by open water alone. 	L	H	Amber	Love Solihull

Contracting Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person to person transmission • Transmission from contaminated surfaces / objects 	Volunteers and members of the public	M	H	Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict following of Government guidance and staying aware of any guidance changes that may relate to this activity. • Individuals displaying symptoms or in contact with people showing symptoms should not litter pick. • Litter picking may be carried out in groups outdoors, without the need to cap attendance • Recommend group leaders maintain a pre-registration list where possible, and attendees take a lateral flow test beforehand • Recommend social distancing of 2m continued to be observed where possible. • Plan your litter picking route beforehand to avoid areas of potential congregation and consider litter picking at quieter times of day. • Recommend that only personal litter picking equipment be used, or that shared equipment is appropriately sanitised between use. • Bring your own thick gloves to wear throughout the activity including when setting up and fastening bags. Wash them thoroughly after each litter pick. • Wash hands thoroughly with hand wash or sanitiser before and after each litter pick. • Avoid touching your face. • Do not overfill bags. Once they are full please securely tie them closed. • Recommend double bagging of Love Solihull bags, placing one bag inside the other. • Take additional care should you find disposable gloves and face masks. • Recommend sanitising your equipment after each use. 	L	H	Amber	Love Solihull
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RISK ASSESSMENT ACTION PLAN

This action plan identifies the control measures to be implemented in order to reduce the lowest acceptable risk level.

Note any Net Risk identified, as a red-risk – immediate action must be taken.

Other categories of Net risk (amber & green) should be completed within the time period (from the report date) specified providing it is reasonably practicable.

Risk Section number	Existing Risk Level	Further actions / Control measures (as identified from the risk assessment)	Responsible Person/s	Target Completion Date	Managers Comments	Completion Date	Managers Signature

<p>ASSESSED BY (PRINT)</p> <p>SIGNED _____ DATE ASSESSED _____</p>	<p>MANAGER (PRINT)</p> <p>SIGNED _____ DATE ASSESSED _____</p>
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I M P A C T	High	Amber 6	Amber 7	Red 9
	Medium	Green 3	Amber 5	Amber 8
	Low	Green 1	Green 2	Green 4
		Low	Medium	High
	LIKELIHOOD			

NET Risk Level	Action and Timescale
Red 9	Work should not be started or continued until the risk level has been reduced. While the control measures should be cost-effective, the legal duty to reduce the risk is mandatory. This means that if it is not possible to reduce the risk, even with unlimited resources, then the work must not be started or must remain prohibited.
Amber 7 & 8	Work should not be started until the risk has been reduced. Considerable resources may have to be allocated to reduce the risk. Where the risk involves work in progress, the problem should be remedied as quickly as possible and certainly within one month.
Amber 6	Although this risk is unlikely to happen, all reasonable efforts should be made to reduce the impact of this risk. Risk reduction measures should normally be implemented within six months, depending on the number of people exposed to the hazard.
Amber 5	Efforts should be made to reduce the risk, but the costs of prevention should be carefully considered. Risk reduction measures should normally be implemented within three months, depending on the number of people exposed to the hazard.
Green 1, 2 & 3	Whilst this level of risk is generally acceptable, consideration should be given to cost-effective solutions, or improvements that impose minimal or no additional cost burden.
Green 4	Monitoring is required to ensure that the controls are maintained.