

Love Solihull Community Litter Picking Guidelines

Love Solihull volunteers are only permitted to collect litter from SMBC maintained land. All individuals carrying out litter picking on Solihull MBC land should follow these guidelines in conjunction with the [Community Litter Picking Risk Assessment](#). Activities that do not follow these guidelines are carried out at your own risk.

Keeping Safe on your litter pick:

- Only litter pick if this is something that you feel comfortable and safe doing.
- Before going out litter picking, please review the Community Litter Picking Risk Assessment.
- If using Love Solihull equipment, please ensure you have completed the Love Solihull Community Litter Picking [registration form](#).
- Only pick up litter using a litter picker - **please do not use your hands**.
- We recommend wearing gloves whilst litter picking.
- Children under 16 years of age should be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.
- When litter picking, please ensure that you **wear the orange Love Solihull high-visibility vest** provided when you register and collect your litter picking equipment.
- Refrain from litter picking in the highway, on narrow verges or central reservations where there is no footpath, or next to roads with speed limits over 30mph.
- Before taking any photos of people participating in the litter pick, ensure that they have given consent and understand where the photo may be displayed or shared.
- For your safety, **do not enter any bodies of water** or water channel during your litter pick.
- Once you have completed the litter pick, **wash your hands as soon as possible**, also consider carrying hand sanitiser to clean your hands during your litter pick.
- Please report equipment defects and any issues or concerns to Love Solihull or your group leader.

Love Solihull bags

- Please use the green 'Love Solihull' bags provided, as this differentiates litter waste from fly tipping or side waste.
- Up to three Love Solihull bags can be left next to any **SMBC public litter bin** and these will be automatically collected by our contractor.
- If you need to leave more than three bags next to a bin, they must be reported for collection via the [online reporting form](#).
- If you need to leave bags in any location other than next to a council bin, please contact Love Solihull's team to pre-agree an alternative location in advance of the litter pick commencing, before reporting them for collection using the [online reporting form](#).
- For larger community litter picks, the group leader should contact the Love Solihull team in advance of your litter pick to agree collection points.

- Do not leave bags next to any buildings in case the bags are ignited prior to collection
- Do not use the Love Solihull bags for green waste (i.e. shrubbery cuttings) without first contacting the Love Solihull team.

What to do if you find:

- **Fly-tipping:** Suspected cases of fly tipping should not be moved. Report to SMBC Connect for further investigation and collection via the [online reporting form](#).
- **Needles:** Please call SMBC Connect 0121 704 8000 for safe collection and disposal. Do not pick up the needles yourself.
- **Knives / Weapons:** If you find a knife, do not pick it up. Please report it to the police by calling 101. Following that, please report it to SMBC Connect on 0121 704 8000 for safe disposal.
- **Inaccessible litter on SMBC land:** Please report to SMBC Connect 0121 704 8000 for safe collection and disposal.
- **Nitrous Oxide Canisters:** If you stumble across a nitrous oxide canister when out litter picking, please do NOT collect it in your green Love Solihull bags. Given the combustible nature of these canisters, we have a separate disposal procedure for them.
 - **Option 1:** Nitrous Oxide canisters can be left LOOSE (**unbagged**) by the side of any public SMBC bin for collection.
 - **Option 2:** Blue nitrous oxide disposal bags can be obtained upon request from your local library. The N.O canisters can be collected in this blue bag and placed by the side of any public SMBC bin for collection.



Recommended PPE and additional equipment List:

- Fully charged mobile phone in case of emergencies
- Thick gloves
- High visibility vest (available from Love Solihull)
- Hand sanitiser and anti-bacterial wipes

Useful contact information:

Solihull MBC Connect

Tel: 0121 704 8000

Website: www.solihull.gov.uk - report a problem online by completing a web form

Email: connectcc@solihull.gov.uk

Love Solihull

Email: lovesolihull@solihull.gov.uk

Website: www.lovesolihull.org

Newsletter: Keep updated through our [volunteer newsletter](#)

West Midlands Police

Emergency Tel: 999

Non-emergency Tel: 101

Website: www.west-midlands.police.uk

Neighbourhood Updates: Sign up to WM Now www.wmnow.co.uk

If you require further clarification or have any questions or feedback relating to these Guidelines and the Community Litter Picking Risk Assessment, then please get in touch.

If you are involved in an incident or accident while litter picking 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, please report this to the Love Solihull team immediately.

Best wishes,
The Love Solihull Team

Thank you for your support in helping to clean up Solihull!