



**KEEP THE BOROUGH LITTER FREE**



# **Information & Guidance for Volunteers**



**Armagh City  
Banbridge  
& Craigavon**  
Borough Council



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### What is it?

Adopt-a-Street is a voluntary initiative launched by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council to help tackle the problem of litter throughout our Borough. We aim to recruit a team of volunteers who wish to take positive action to help keep streets and roads litter free, for their own benefit and the enjoyment of a cleaner environment for all. The scheme aims to build on existing community partnerships; we hope to encourage local communities to become involved in caring for their local environment and to restore a sense of civic pride.

This booklet will give guidance on various aspects of the scheme and explain how you can become involved. Adopt-a-Street is open to all individuals and to groups. Although co-ordinated by Council, individuals and groups who take part are volunteers and will be asked to sign an Indemnity Form.

By volunteering you will help make a difference and foster a feeling of community spirit within your area. Clean streets lead to a feeling of safety and pride in your local environment. The initiative will in no way affect the service provided by the council and we will continue to provide our scheduled cleansing services.





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## How can I take part in the scheme?

Anyone wishing to take part in the scheme can request a copy of our Expression of Interest form which will be sent together with a copy of the guidance notes which explains the scheme in detail and provides the necessary health and safety advice.

Once the Expression of Interest has been received the scheme Co-ordinator will come out and meet with you and your group and will provide the necessary equipment to those signing up. An Indemnity Form will also be provided for completion and a short questionnaire will also be given to the group leader.

## Volunteers

Volunteers agree to pick up litter in a particular street or road of their choosing. This can be done as and when they wish at a time which suits them best. There is no fixed time or frequency at which this should be done. Individual volunteers must be aged 16 or over and only those over the age of 16 can register to become volunteers. However groups of young persons aged under 16 can take part in the scheme when supervised by an adult(s). In particular we want to encourage school groups, scouts and other young persons' organisations to become involved.

## Safety

Volunteers should at all times make personal safety their top priority as well as the safety of others. Where possible they should wear suitable clothing and footwear for the conditions. Consideration should be given to wearing high visibility clothing, especially when working near traffic. This will be particularly important when working in rural areas on roads without footpaths.

**Listed below are the key points to remember in order to ensure that your litter picking activities are as safe as possible.**

- Always be aware of motor vehicles and take precautions to limit the danger.
- Be aware of trip hazards, such as uneven or slippery surfaces, kerb edges, undergrowth etc.
- Stay clear of steep banks or areas with a large drop.
- Be aware of the dangers when working near water.
- Do not touch suspect or potentially harmful items—see following page.
- When working near hedges, shrubs and undergrowth avoid reaching in such a way as expose your face, eyes and skin to scratches from thorns, branches etc.
- Do not over reach—if the litter cannot be easily reached do not put yourself in harms way to reach it.
- Avoid risks associated with insects, such as stings from wasps and bees.
- Avoid prolonged exposure to the elements—in summer be aware of the harmful effects of the sun and wrap up in cold or wet conditions.

## Where to Pick Litter

Litter may be picked on any public road, street or public space. Please do not go on to private land and do not get involved with the removal of fly-tipped waste. All cases of fly-tipped waste should be reported to Council's Waste Management Department, so that the necessary inspections and investigations can be carried out to try and identify the source of the dumped waste materials before removal.



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## How to Pick Litter

You will be provided with a litter picker, gloves and bin bags. The litter picker should be the main implement used so as to avoid strains from bending down and the associated repetitive movements. Litter should only be lifted by hand if it is easy and safe to do so. Place the litter in the bags provided. If you wish you may separate the waste into recyclable and general waste. What we mean by recyclable waste is any items that would be accepted for collection when placed in your green bin. Do not overload the bin bags to avoid strains.

## What Not to Pick Up

- Broken glass - This can be collected however using a dust pan and brush as long as you have a suitable container such as a cardboard box to place it in. Do not put broken glass in plastic bags.
- Dog Foul - Do not place dog fouling directly into the bags, however if you have suitable small bags you can lift and double bag it before placing in your bin bag.
- Hypodermic needles - DO NOT TOUCH - these should be reported to the Council.
- Anything that you are not sure of and which may be dangerous. Any suspicious objects should be reported to the police.
- Large items which may put a strain on your body if you attempt to lift them.

## How to Dispose of the Litter

The litter collected should be placed in a safe place for collection; this can be at the roadside or taken back to your house. Contact the Council to advise where and when bags have been placed for collection. If possible you can take the bags to the nearest Civic Amenity and Recycling centre for disposal.

## Contact Details

**For general queries regarding the scheme or to register: 0300 0300 900**

**To request collection of bags or report fly-tipping please contact Council's Waste Management Department.**

***Thank you for the interest you have shown in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council's Adopt-a-Street scheme.***





Please contact  
**0300 0300 900**  
for more details.