**GUIDANCE FOR VOLUNTEER**

**LITTER PICKERS**

**Noxious and Dangerous Materials**

**Protective Clothing and Equipment**

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

• **Reflective hi-visibility waistcoats** to clearly highlight volunteers to traffic and pedestrians.

• **Litter pickers** to avoid direct contact with litter and repetitive bending.

• **Gloves** to minimise contact with and noxious or dangerous materials.

• **Suitable footwear and clothing**

**Young Volunteers**

Volunteers under the age of 18

should be supervised at all times by a parent or guardian during the litter pick

The following materials may be encountered during litter picks and should be treated with caution:

* **Broken glass** – remove using a litter picker or a brush and shovel, avoiding contact by hand, and dispose of in a sturdy container.
* **Drug related litter/hypodermics** – these should not be moved under any circumstance. Note the location and report to the Council for specialist removal.
* **Suspect materials and fly tipping** – items that are possibly dangerous such as unknown liquids in containers, building materials, asbestos, or fly tipping should not be moved by volunteers. Note the location and report to the Council for specialist removal.

If there is any doubt about an item, leave it, and let the Council know.

**General Site Safety and Inspection**

* Litter picking of areas beside roads should be carried out with extreme caution, due to the risk of being struck by vehicles
* Avoid reaching into hedges or undergrowth in such a way as to expose the face, eyes and skin to scratches from thorns or branches. If an item of litter cannot be safely reached with a litter picker, leave it.

**Lifting & Handling Materials**

Volunteers should be aware of the risk of injury by carrying bags of collected litter and heavy materials. To avoid injury, the following basic principles of manual handling should be applied:

• Use litter pickers to prevent constant bending and stretching.

• Decide if an item can be safely moved either by one or two people.

• Only try to move an item if this can be done so without straining.

• When lifting an item, bend the legs and keep the back straight.

* Avoid working close to rivers or on steep slopes, as there is an increased risk of slips and falls. When working close to ditches, avoid reaching into the ditch to remove litter, unless it can be safely reached with a litter picker
* Volunteers have a duty towards themselves, fellow volunteers and the public to work safely. If there is any doubt about the safety of a site or material, then it should be avoided.

**Disclaimer**

Volunteers should not participate in litter picks unless they understand and accept that **participation is entirely at their own risk**. Volunteers are not working for, or on behalf of, Eye Town Council, therefore the Council will not be held responsible for any loss, damage or inconvenience caused as a result of the actions and omissions of volunteers or this guidance.