

Planning and Environment Committee

Agenda Item 9. To consider outline proposals to implement a Adopt a Street litter picking scheme (Report Cllr Ritchie)

1. Situation:

Littering occurs in a wide variety of forms and locations. There is no single simple solution.

However, one strand of activity that is showing good results where it has already been implemented in 'Adopt a Street' litter picking schemes. In essence residents adopt a street or part of a street and undertake to complete a small number of litter picks a year.

Examples include Sandwell – litterwatch.org.uk/adopt-a-street, Wychavon <https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/street-care-and-cleaning/adopt-a-street> and <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/parking-travel-roads/street-cleaning/adopt-street>

Such schemes drive engagement, education and eyes and ears in helping reduce some littering problems.

In Malmesbury we have a recognised litter picking champion, Ben Thornbury. Ben is our two times Junior Citizen of the Year. He came to me as Mayor and suggested we consider such a scheme in Malmesbury. He and I have met with Wychavon Council, who pioneered Adopt a Street, and our local Community Engagement Manager. While there are some details to be worked out and some funding to be sourced, there do not appear to be any major reasons why such a scheme should not be implemented in Malmesbury while there is the potential for significant benefits if it is implemented. As far as we are aware this would be the first such scheme in the Wiltshire Council area. P&E is therefore invited to consider the current outline proposals and to help shape the appropriate next steps for an Adopt a Street Litter Picking Scheme in Malmesbury.

2. Key Features of the Malmesbury Adopt a Street Litter Picking Scheme:

- The scheme is promoted and publicised by Malmesbury Town Council.
- Participants are insured by Malmesbury Town Council. (This has been checked with our insurers would be part of our existing cover provided risk assessment/ basic health and safety structures are followed).
- Information about the scheme is included in the MTC website. See Attachment 1. This should include a dynamic map of adopted streets and information about the scheme. A quote to include this content now needs to be obtained.
- Participants are allocated a set of key equipment– gloves, picker and bags - on a non return basis. An initial supply will be donated by Wiltshire Council and is currently located at the Riverside. The detail of the equipment allocation protocol needs to be finalised. The likely cost of continuing equipment allocations based on the likely number of participants for a scheme across the Malmesbury area has also to be finalised and it may be Wiltshire Council will agree without direct cost to provide further supplies from other stocks it has. Our Community Engagement Manager is investigating and is due to report back shortly. If there are continuing costs for equipment in the foreseeable future, the possible sources of this funding needs to be identified and funding agreed.
- Participants sign up to clear rules and standards. Examples already exist and can easily be adopted.

- The disposal collected litter is co-ordinated with the WC litter collection contractor. This has been agreed in principle and similar arrangements work well in other areas; the details of the communication protocol is being finalised.
- Overall such schemes work to the benefit of local residents, the wider community, local councils and waste collection contractors.

3. Proposal

P&E supports the continuing development of the Adopt a Street litter picking scheme proposal, including

- (i) The agreement in principle that information about the scheme can be included on the MTC website and a quote for this work can be obtained.
- (ii) That the Chair or other designated member of the Committee will join Ben Thornbury and Cllr Ritchie in finalising the details of the proposal, including any funding requirements, and including participation in discussions with our Community Engagement Manager and other officers of Wiltshire Council as appropriate.
- (iii) Recognising and supporting, in principle, the role Malmesbury Town Council may have in managing the equipment stock, allocating equipment, managing communications with participants and the wider community and promoting the scheme, subject to final proposals being reviewed and agreed.

4. Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications in agreeing this proposal. There may be proposals for funding by MTC included as part of the final proposals. Decisions on funding proposals, if any, will be taken at a future date.

Cllr Campbell Ritchie

8th July 2021

Attachment 1: Supporting Information

- (a) MTC Website specification
- (b) Adopt-a-Street Safety Guidelines - Malmesbury, Wiltshire - Draft
- (c) Application for adopting a street - Malmesbury, Wiltshire - Draft

Attachment 1:

(a) Plan and Information for MTC website - Adopt a street scheme:

Information to show on the webpage:

Love where you live and want to help by keeping it looking clean and tidy?
Then sign up to become a volunteer on the Malmesbury Adopt a street scheme

The only things you have to do to sign up is:

- Read the guidelines and make sure you understand them.
- Fill out the application form below and letting us know what area of land you would like to adopt (Public land unless permission from the landowner is granted). And then send it to (Email still to be decided)

The area you choose to litter pick can be as small or as large as you like.

For arranging of equipment:

(Still to be decided).

Embed google map of the streets adopted (To the right)

This will show the streets highlighted as they get adopted.

Disposing of waste which you collect:

To dispose of waste collected please email northernhighways@wiltshire.gov.uk and they will be able to arrange the disposal of the bags collected.

Send us your litter picking information:

If you are already signed up as one of Malmesbury's Adopt our street volunteers, Then let us know how much litter you are collecting by using the link below which will take you to a simple online form to fill out:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/PGHC3D/>

(b) Adopt-a-Street Safety Guidelines - Malmesbury, Wiltshire Draft:

To carry out any litter picking activity it will be necessary for all participants to follow the guidelines below:

Important information:

- Always work within your own capabilities
- Only work in daylight hours
- Tell a friend or family member where you are working, and what time you expect to be back.
- Ensure you have a mobile phone with you in case of an emergency.
- Read and adhere to the safety guidelines

Work must only be carried out on council owned land unless you have the permission of the land owner.

- Always wear a hi-viz
- Be aware of the likelihood of any vehicles in the area.
- Do not work near hazardous areas such as slopes, cliffs, water bodies etc

Safety Advice:

If you are going to be carrying out a litter pick you will need gloves, litter picker, Hi-Viz and bags

Under no circumstances should you pick up litter with your bare hands.

You will need good footwear (no sandals or flip flops), depending on the weather appropriate clothing, sun protection and water to hydrate.

If weather conditions get poor then stop working

Wash hands or use hand sanitiser as soon as possible after litter picking

During the activity:

Families are welcome to litter pick together but young children need to be supervised and should take regular breaks. They should not lift anything heavy.

Do not litter pick from ditches or trash screens or drainage system unless the litter is easily accessible and do not lean in/over the ditch or trash screens to reach the litter.

Be aware of and do not remove litter if any risk of injury:

- Shrubs, branches and hedgerows especially at eye height.
- Dangerous plants and vegetation - avoid skin contact
- Disturbing wildlife - Do not cut back hedges or brambles

Please do not remove anything too heavy, or awkward to carry.

Do not pick up any dog faeces, unless bagged and always use a litter picker

Please do not pick up any hazardous items especially:

- **Syringes**
- **Drug paraphernalia**
- **Anything sharp (e.g broken glass)**
- **Leaking batteries**
- **Asbestos**
- **Chemicals**

If you find any of these items, Make note of the location and report it on (<https://my.wiltshire.gov.uk>).

Waste disposal:

(Information to be added here)

And finally...

Some Useful Contacts:

Emergency Services: 999 or 111

Report Hazardous Waste: 0300 456 0100

Oaks and furrows and wildlife - 01793 751412

Wiltshire Council Highways (Day-time) - 0300 456 0105

Wiltshire Council Highways (Out Of Hours) - 0300 456 0100

(c) Application for adopting a street (Draft Version) - Malmesbury, Wiltshire

How Adopt-my-street works:

Adopt-a-street is your chance to help keep your local area free from litter.

You chose a street or streets that you would like to adopt and then carry out regular litter picks throughout the year, By using the equipment we provide you with. The aim is to complete a minimum of four litter picks a year.

Please read through this application form and complete it. Make sure you have read and understood the guidelines before you apply.

1. Application - Your Details:

Full Name:

Telephone Number:

Email Address:

Safety Advice:

- If you have an existing medical condition do not work beyond your own capabilities
- Do not attempt to move or lift anything heavy
- Only work for short intervals and take breaks
- If necessary, seek medical advice before you start
- If you feel unwell or short breath stop work immediately and see medical advice

To contact the emergency services, dial 999 if life is in danger or 111 for non-emergencies

In accordance with data protection this information will be treated as confidential at all times.

The street(s) you would like to adopt:

Where you can adopt:

- It must have a speed limit of 30MPH or less
- It must have a pavement or adequate grass verge to keep away from traffic
- It must not include significant hazards e.g. cliffs, steep slopes and water bodies

Names of streets you would like to adopt:

Declaration:

I confirm that I am over 18. I have read and understood the risk assessment for litter picking on Wiltshire Council land, and therefore accept my responsibilities as a member of the Adopt a street scheme.

Signed:

If you are completing this form electronically, entering your name in the signed box will act as an electronic signature

Print Name:

Date:

Next Steps:

- You now need to read through the safety guidelines. Once you have done that send this form to (Needs adding)
- After we receive your completed form, We'll contact you to arrange collection of (Needs Adding)

Protecting Personal Data

(The information needs adding)