

Brixham Town Council

Report No:	35-2018		
Report Type:	Public		
Title:	Provision of litter picking equipment.		
To:	Community Services	Date:	29.10.18
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Purpose of Report

To consider the purchase of hand-held litter picking equipment for use by members of the public.

Background

A member of the public has approached the Town Council to request a hand-held litter picker to enable them to carry out litter collection and removal while walking around Brixham.

The Community Services Committee discussed the request on the 24th September 2018 and it was resolved to:

1. Make further investigations into the provision of litter pickers to all members of the public.
2. Contact Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) to ascertain whether there are any requirements or restrictions and report any findings at the next Community Services meeting.

Outcome of advice from Devon Association of Local Councils

Question: The Town Council are considering the purchase of litter picking equipment that would be held in the Town Council Office and made available to members of the public to drop in and borrow on an ad hoc basis. Would a risk assessment need to be carried out every time the equipment is borrowed? And is it acceptable for them to sign a disclaimer for insurance purposes?

Answer: No, you will need to risk assess this way of working – the ad hoc way of working might be fine if the people coming forward have been to a briefing e.g. on safe working and checked in with you to say where they will be working. You can't ask them to sign a disclaimer – if they cause damage to someone else and they are working under the control of the council, then the council is liable and as long as you have the risk assessment in place your public liability insurance will cover that. Likewise, if the volunteer is injured in the course of doing litter picking they could make a claim against your insurance – which will be fine as long as you have done the risk assessment and insisted on safe working practices.

Based on the above advice further research has been undertaken to find out what other Town Councils are doing to keep their town tidy.

What other Councils are doing?

Teignbridge District Council operates a community litter picking scheme which offers support to communities planning their own litter picking events by:

- Lends litter picking kit: Contains 20 hi-visibility waistcoats, 20 litter pickers, disposable gloves and sacks.
- Provides a guidance pack to help you plan your event:
- Provides a sample risk assessment. A copy of the risk assessment must be provided before the litter picking equipment can be issued.
- Arranges for any rubbish collected to be removed.

<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/community-and-people/clean-teignbridge/litter/community-litter-picking-scheme/>

Crediton Town Council operates a Keep Crediton Clean scheme. Offering free 'dog poo' bags to residents and can provide equipment for litter picking events.

Guilford Borough Council provides litter picking equipment to residents, community groups and businesses to assist the street cleaning crews to keep the borough clean. Every volunteer is provided with a set of equipment including litter picker, high visibility vest, rubbish bags, gloves and safety guidance. Rubbish can also be arranged for collection.

<https://www.guilford.gov.uk/article/18956/Community-litter-picking>



Kingsbridge



West Bay

We understand that TOR2 have also carried out community action days in the past.

Keep Brixham Beautiful

It is recognised that the Town Council should be more proactive in its approach to litter problems in the town and should consider initiating a 'Keep Brixham Beautiful' campaign incorporating:

- Quarterly community litter cleans.

- The Council would co-ordinate the event including advertisement, promotion, risk assessments, insurance and guidance.
- Purchase of equipment

Cost of Equipment

Equipment	Quantity	Specification	Cost
Litter Picker	20	Standard 33" Litter picker. Soft grip handle, reflective strips and vibrant colour. www.clickcleaning.co.uk	£8.60 each excluding VAT. Total £172.00
Gloves	20	Thermal grip gloves. Variety of sizes	£2.00 each Total £40.00
Hoops	20	Handi Hoop Refuse sack holder. Just feed a liner through the Handi hoop, clip it in place and you're away - less frustration and easier Litter picking. www.clickcleaning.co.uk	£7.20 each excluding VAT Total £144.00
Black Bags	Box of 200	*See note below	£18.95
		Total	£374.95

*Investigation into the use of biodegradable bags has highlighted that they are not recommended as they break down into micro plastics. Compostable bags would not be strong enough.

The Town Council has a stock of Hi-Viz vests.

Promotion

High profile positive promotion is required:

- Posters to be placed on the Town Council notice boards located at Pillar Avenue, St Marys Square and the front of Town Hall.
- Town Council social media sites.
- Newsletter – regular feature in the Brixham Signal.
- Town Council Web site.
- Councillors leading by example.

Recommendation:

That the Community Services Committee recommend to Full Council:

1. Based on the advice received from DALC it is recommended that the Town Council does not purchase litter picking equipment for use on an adhoc basis.
2. Adopts a volunteer litter picking scheme 'Keep Brixham Beautiful'
3. Produces a Risk Assessment template.
4. Produces a Guidance package.
5. Requests a budget to purchase necessary equipment.