

Report To: Planning & Environment Committee

Date: 06 October 2025

Contact Officer: Paula Harrison

Subject: Litter Picking Trial

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Planning & Environment Committee with information after 12 months of the litter picking trial.

2. LITTER PICKING ISSUE

- 2.1 Following a review of the high levels of littering, in October 2024 this Committee agreed the initiation of a trial of litter picking stations.
- 2.2 Since then, a permanent station has been positioned at Peatmoor lake, followed by Shaw Village Centre and Claypits-Cartwright Drive. A mobile board has been dropped to a range of locations including Bess Road, Old Purton Road, Dunwich Drive, Cleves Close, Eastleaze play area, Sparcells play area, Kiln park, The Chesters and Bloomsbury Park.
- 2.3 The boards have been a regular feature on social media and have generally be well received by local residents.



3. RESULTS:

- 3.1 Across the litter picking stations there have been 30 plus litter picker replacements. Some of the mobile locations work better than others. In some locations, the board has been damaged and pickers removed/taken.
- 3.2 The West Swindon model has been copied by other Parishes keen to replicate the initiative.
- 3.3 Following limited evidence of activity and the loss of litter pickers, the board at Shaw Village Centre has moved to Nine Elms, opposite the Nine Elms pub for a trial run in a new location. The board at Peatmoor Lake appears to be in use. The board at Claypits has not been vandalised or litter pickers stolen.
- 3.4 The roving litter picking board will continue to move around the Parish however with the anticipated change in the weather, the board may go out less frequently depending on the weather forecast.
- 3.5 There is no obvious evidence that the boards impact on litter but do create a talking point and a reminder that this is a community issue.
- 3.6 We have designed and created unique *Love Where You Learn* litter picking boards. These have been offered to primary schools and it is hoped that this is another positive addition to the initiative.



4. FINANCIAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

- 4.1 The cost of bin emptying and flytipping collection is likely to be over £100,000 per annum. The litter picking boards may be making a short term improvement to the immediate area.
- 4.2 The cost of replacing litter pickers is approximately £6 a picker, creating an estimated cost of £180 for replacement equipment for an 8-10 month period. The boards are made in house and cost around £100. The greater cost is staff hours checking, repairing, replacing and relocating boards which may amount to 1-2 hours per week.

5. RECOMMENDATION:

- 5.1 That the Team continues to maintain and distribute the litter picking boards, taking into account unsuccessful sites and considers opportunities to grow and promote this initiative.

Paula Harrison

Parish Manager/Clerk