



This month we share feedback from the inaugural Keep Meriden Tidy weekend, show results of recent environmental projects in the community, give updates from local litter picking groups and look ahead to Love Parks Week!

Keep Meriden Tidy

Saqib Bhatti, MP for Meriden met with several community groups for a weekend of clean-up activities between 3-4 July.

'Keep Meriden Tidy' provided an opportunity for him to accompany volunteers litter picking in specific areas, including Chelmsley Wood, Kingshurst, Hampton-in-Arden and Knowle.



In addition, members of Balsall Common Litter Pickers joined Saqib Bhatti for a discussion on the issue of littering in their area and how they have tackled the problem collectively during the pandemic.

He was hugely impressed by the commitment of the hundreds of volunteers who help keep Solihull looking clean and litter-free, and pledged his continued support on tackling the issue going forward.

For further details and photos from the event, see the following [article](#) in the Solihull Observer.



Volunteer Project at Balsall Common Library Car Park

A team of 12 volunteers, including members of Berkswell and Balsall Parish Councils alongside local residents, carried out a project to tidy up the car park of Balsall Common Library on Sunday 4 July.

Led by Andrew Burrows (Berkswell Society) the project included cutting back overgrown vegetation, removing litter, and generally making the car park more appealing to users.

The volunteers were joined by Saqid Bhatti MP, who stopped by to give a personal thank you to the volunteers whilst out and about during Keep Meriden Tidy.

The project, supported by Love Solihull, has made a real difference to users of the car park and ensures the area is ready for use over summer.

If you have an environmental project idea in your area, get in touch with the Love Solihull team to discuss on lovesolihull@solihull.gov.uk

Berkswell Litter Pick

Over 20 volunteers of all ages turned out in force on Saturday 26 June for the annual Berkswell litter pick, collecting over 30 bags of rubbish from local lanes, hedgerows, footpaths and woodland.

The litter pick, supported by Love Solihull, is another shining example of a whole community coming together to make a huge difference to their area.

Thank you to all the volunteers for their support.

Restoration project at Solihull College & University Centre

Love Solihull recently supported an environmental project at Solihull College & University Centre, linking volunteers from finance company BNP Paribas with college staff to regenerate the pond and green space located at Blossomfield Campus.



Love Solihull were contacted by BNP Paribas, who were looking for a volunteer project close to their Solihull Head Office. The group attended over three days bringing over 30 volunteers from across the business, including one volunteer who travelled from as far as Teesside to participate!

The project – co-ordinated by Maddie Booth (Sustainability Officer for Solihull College & University Centre) – including clearing of overgrown vegetation, constructing of wooden picnic benches, restoring path edges using re-purposed wood, building and painting timber fences from materials donated by EH Smith, and re-building wildlife habitats (insect and bird housing) to increase biodiversity.

The project has now re-opened a circular path that leads around the perimeter of the pond, providing a safe and peaceful walking route for staff and students. The regeneration of the outdoor seating area also allows a quiet place for users to connect with nature and sit under a canopy of woodland trees.

Love Solihull provided various tools to enable the project and supported volunteers with safety talks and practical support.

This was truly a fantastic effort by all involved with superb results!

The project continues later this month with planting of the area by volunteers from another local business, The Chartered Institute of Payroll Professionals (CIPP).



Love Parks Week

Between 23 July and 1 August, Love Solihull will proudly support the national [Love Parks Week](#). This latest campaign from Keep Britain Tidy aims to encourage everyone to love, protect and respect

their local parks, helping to sustain them for years to come.

Parks have been a lifeline for many during the coronavirus pandemic, so now is the time to show our appreciation by sharing messages of thanks, educating our young people about the importance of parks and playing your part to help keep them safe and clean.

Love Solihull will be providing plenty of ideas via our social media (@LoveSolihull on Twitter and Instagram) and would love to hear from you during the week on how you will be making the most of your local park this summer.

The campaign will highlight how beautiful and green Solihull is and how our parks continue to benefit the wellbeing of those that use them as we come out of COVID restrictions.

We would love for you to share your photos, pledges and messages of support during #LoveParks week using the hashtags #LoveParks #RespectParks #ProtectParks, and don't forget to tag in @LoveSolihull and @keepbritaintidy

New Love Solihull Volunteer Vests

Love Solihull has now introduced new high-vis vests for all volunteers. These orange vests are designed to improve the visibility of volunteers whilst they are out and about, particularly near roads, and replace the previously issued purple vests.

We strongly recommend the use of our high-vis vest (which meets BS EN 471 (Class 2) standard) when litter picking outside of parks.

If you are affiliated with a local litter picking group, your group leader may contact you shortly to arrange collection or delivery of your new vest.

If you are registered with our Community Litter Picking Initiative as an individual, we will contact you with details on how to obtain your orange volunteer vest over the coming weeks.

Kingshurst Community Picnic

Kingshurst Parish Council would like to invite members of the community to a post-lockdown picnic held at Babbs Mill Park and Local Nature Reserve on Sunday 25 July 2021.

This event will celebrate the wonderful Kingshurst community and give families, friends, and local partners the opportunity to get together safely for some fun in the sun, which marks the start of the summer holidays.

There will be games and freebies on the day, so why not pop along from 1pm!





Castle Bromwich Litter Pickers

Well done to the Castle Bromwich Litter Pickers who recently reached another fantastic milestone, having collected a whopping 4,500 bags since forming just over three years ago!

The group continues to go from strength to strength in numbers, with dedicated volunteers out litter picking each week in all-weather conditions.

Keep up the good work!

Fields in Trust – Online Training for Volunteers (September & August)

Fields in Trust has partnered with green space charity Groundwork and The National Youth Agency on the 'Future Proof Parks' programme, which is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

As part of this project, Fields in Trust will support Friends of Parks and Community Group volunteers to discover new ways to engage with the next generation of volunteers.

The aim is to encourage young people to volunteer through their local community group, preserving and celebrating local parks and green spaces where they live.

Fields in Trust will be hosting online training sessions to give ideas and share best practice for engagement.

To register your interest, visit www.fieldsintrust.org/future-proof-parks

Solihull Zero Wasters

On Wednesday 7 July, [Solihull Zero Wasters](#), a local Community Interest Company (CIC) re-opened with a fantastic new store on Hobs Moat Road.

The shop supports plastic-free, eco-friendly shopping - so why not bring along your containers to re-use and re-fill with new produce including food and cleaning products.

We are so excited for this group to get up and running again in their new premises, with the hope of lots of exciting environmental projects in the pipeline, including educational workshops.

Pop along to the shop and say hello to the friendly team who are very supportive of Love Solihull and all our volunteers!

PING! Solihull

Solihull Active, supported by Table Tennis England, has recently commissioned the installation of 12 outdoor table tennis tables enabling park-goers to turn up and play this fun and accessible sport.

The table tennis tables are located at:

- [Babbs Mill Park](#)
- [Elmdon Park](#)
- [Olton Jubilee Park](#)
- [Meriden Park](#)
- [Tudor Grange Park](#)
- [Jacey Park](#)

If you love a bit of table tennis, find out how you can become a [local activator](#) (training included) and help support others to enjoy this fantastic sport, making use of the free facilities available to all.

You can find out more [here](#)

Love Solihull actively encourages residents and businesses to make a difference to the environment and support those who co-ordinate their own projects.

Email alerts will be sent out throughout the year giving information on environmental projects including what is happening in your area and how you can get involved.

More information can be found at www.lovesolihull.org

COVID-19
Let's take this next step, safely.



For more information about Council services, please see our [website](#).

