



August 2019



New Community Litter Picking Guidelines

During the last 18 months, the number of residents, community groups, and businesses carrying out litter picks across the borough has grown considerably.

There are many different reasons for volunteering to pick up litter. For some people it's because they hate the sight of litter spoiling where they live, and for others it's the enjoyment they get from doing some physical exercise and getting some fresh air while doing something valuable at the same time. We've also met people who do it because they want their fellow residents to see that dropping litter is not a good idea. Whatever the reason, the Love Solihull Team appreciates the time each person gives and the positive results, and it's important to us that everyone feels valued and supported.

Love Solihull continues to expand and so, acting on some recent feedback, we decided it would be a good time to get together with a few representatives from some of the community groups to discuss their experiences and to see what additional support they need.

The priority was to review all the community litter-picking guidelines and risk assessments. As a result of this, a number of changes were made which the council's Health and Safety team has approved. The new litter picking guidelines have now been shared with all the volunteers, making their involvement safer and more enjoyable.

If you know of any residents or community groups that would like to become involved in litter picking we have plenty of litter picking equipment for loan. If you would like to borrow some or get a copy of the new guidelines please contact the team via lovesolihull@solihull.gov.uk



Damson Lane Park makes 16 Green Flags for Solihull!

Damson Lane Park has been awarded a Green Flag – bringing the total number of Green Flags for Solihull’s parks and green spaces to 16.

The Green Flag Award scheme is managed by Keep Britain Tidy and sets the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and

around the world.

Solihull Council’s Cabinet Member for the Environment and Highways, Cllr Ken Hawkins, said: “Solihull’s motto is Urbs in Rure - the town in the countryside - and our latest Green Flag reinforces our commitment to the environment and green spaces.

“Damson Lane Park’s success is largely down to the hard work of the Friends of Damson Park. The group has raised funds for park improvements - including a new footpath around the park, outdoor gym equipment and play facilities - and they also organise an annual dog show.

“This year we have successfully held on to our existing 15 Green Flags and can now welcome Damson Lane Park to our Green Flag family. I’m tremendously proud of all the staff and voluntary groups who have worked so hard to make this possible.”

The purpose and aims of the Green Flag Award scheme are:

- To ensure that everybody has access to quality green and other open spaces, irrespective of where they live.
- To ensure that these spaces are appropriately managed and meet the needs of the communities that they serve.
- To establish standards of good management and to promote.
- To share good practice amongst the green space sector.
- To recognise and reward the hard work of managers, staff and volunteers.

The Solihull parks and green spaces awarded a 2019-20 Green Flag are:

- Babb’s Mill Park, Kingshurst
- Bentley Heath Park
- Brueton and Malvern Park
- **Damson Lane Park – new for this year**
- Dorridge Park
- Elmdon Park
- Hillfield Park and Local Nature Reserve, Monkspath
- Knowle Park Olton Jubilee Park, Lyndon
- Lavender Hall Park, Balsall Common
- Meriden Park, Chelmsley Wood
- Palmers Rough Local Nature Reserve / Jacey Park, Shirley Shirley Park
- Robin Hood Cemetery
- Tudor Grange Park
- Woodlands Cemetery

Pic caption left-right: Chris Edgell – Public Realm Manager Solihull Council, Diane Green - Friends of Damson Park, Sarah Russell – Friends of Damson Park, Cllr Ken Hawkins – Solihull Council, Alan Green – Friends of Damson Park, Barry Lowe - Senior Park Ranger Solihull Council

Winning Carpet Bed Design

Tamzin Clarke, a pupil from Smith's Wood Academy, has had her design planted up in flowers after winning the annual Love Solihull flowerbed design competition.

The competition was in partnership with the Royal British Legion and their 'Thank You' campaign, which last year marked 100 years since the end of World War One.

The competition received more than 300 entries from 12 local schools but it was Tamzin Clarke, age 12, who drew the winning entry. Her design has now been transformed into a flowerbed within Malvern Park and showcases the importance of the Poppy as a symbol of hope and remembrance.

Elaine Butler, Legion County President for Warwickshire & Birmingham said: "The Legion is here to champion Remembrance but also to allow it to evolve. We want to empower people to find new ways to remember those who have served, to give all communities the freedom to develop their own forms of Remembrance which reflect their own histories and cultures. Therefore, the Love Solihull flowerbed is a perfect example of how we remember all that served the sacrifices that were made and it symbolises hope for the future."

Love Solihull contacted schools with details about the competition and gave the schools factsheets about the Thank You 100 campaign.

Please do go and see the carpet bed for yourself- it is located on the right hand side when you enter the park from the town centre entrance.



Love Solihull become environmental ambassadors

Love Solihull, has scooped another award for environmental best practice and are also set to become international ambassadors for the environment.

Following last year's success at The Green Apple Awards – where they picked up an award for environmental best practice - Love

Solihull has gone on to receive an International Corporate Social Responsibility Excellence Award at this year's awards.

They will also become Green World Ambassadors as their winning paper will be published in The Green Book - a leading international work of reference on environmental best practice. Solihull Council's Cabinet Member for the Environment and Highways, Cllr Ken Hawkins, said: "Love Solihull work with local businesses, schools, residents and community groups to make a positive difference to Solihull and its environment.

"They link local businesses with community projects and go on to deliver some amazing projects from developing school grounds to supporting litter picks.

"This award is justifiable recognition of the work that they carry out in Solihull and shows what we can achieve when we all work together. The dedication and support of volunteers from across the borough has made these awards possible."

Pic caption left to right – Public Realm Manager Chris Edgell, Jo Williams and Shameena Villars from Love Solihull and Cllr Ken Hawkins

Use our What's On calendar to see what's happening in our parks and open spaces

<https://www.solihull.gov.uk/events>

Thank you for connecting with Love Solihull

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



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

