



Grime Scene tape to help fight fly-tipping



Environmental Services have introduced the use of yellow 'Grime Scene' tape and stickers that are now being placed on fly-tipped items. The purpose of the tape and stickers is to let people know that the fly tip is being investigated and provide information on how local residents may be able to help identify the person/s who left it. Another expected benefit of this process is that it will avoid duplicate reports and call outs.

New Solar litter bins



Solihull Council has installed 11 brand new solar powered street bins that can store up to ten times more litter than a regular bin. The solar powered bins, which have been installed as part of a six month trial, use the sun's energy to compact litter allowing them to hold far more rubbish than a conventional bin. The new solar powered bins can be found in three locations across the borough – with four bins in Malvern Park, five bins in Shirley Park, and two bins on the town centre's high street.

Elmdon Stream Clearance



Volunteers from Elmdon Park Support Group (EPSG) have been out in the park making a splash this summer. At a recent meeting the group identified that they wanted to get involved in helping to clean up the stream of litter and debris while also creating openings alongside its banks. Supported by Love Solihull there were over 15 volunteers that attended on the first action day; including 3 children and a four legged friend that took the opportunity to have a good paddle! On the second day volunteers from local businesses Secure Trust Bank and Environment Agency lent a helping hand and everyone worked together to make a difference to the park. Thank you to all involved!

Monkspath couple take great actions in reducing litter within local neighbourhood.

Volunteering has been proven to have many benefits for both communities and those individuals that get involved. This is being realised in #Solihull by the inspiring residents volunteering to look after and nurture the environment through the #LoveSolihull programme.

Love Solihull, #SolihullCouncil's principle environmental initiative, supports volunteers across the borough who want to make a positive change to their area.

A Love Solihull spokesperson said: "Since 'Blue Planet' was televised, the number of people who are actively making changes to improve the environment within the borough has soared.



"For example, #Monkspath couple Sandra and Richard Gill have been taking great actions in reducing litter within their local neighbourhood carrying out regular litter picks.

"Sandra, who was inspired by 'Blue Planet', decided to take action after attending a Love Solihull tea and coffee morning promoting environmental volunteering opportunities.

"Initially, Sandra went out litter picking on her own but after a few weeks Richard saw how much his wife was enjoying litter picking and he made the decision that he wanted to join her.

"Richard suffers from a severe back condition which limits his activity. For four years Richard had spent most of his life indoors completing jig-saws and Lego to help pass away time. Neither Sandra nor Richard wanted to let his back condition prevent him from going out and making a positive difference, so they bought a second hand mobility scooter - which Richard has now adapted with a trailer!

"This couple's inventiveness didn't stop there: Sandra converted a shopping trolley for her litter picking as they found that there were often there are a great number of bottles to clear.

"Since then, there has been no stopping the couple who go out litter picking from two to five days a week, taking regular breaks at their favourite coffee shops and restaurants."

Sandra tells us: “The kind gentleman who owns the Vintage tea and coffee cart on Highlands Road gives us a free hot drink to thank us for our community efforts which we are truly grateful for!”

After joining the Love Solihull family, Richard has said: “It has changed my life and given me a new purpose. After retiring 18 years ago and with more recent back issues, I felt like I had little or no social life but now people talk to me and thank me for caring for the environment which makes me feel part of the community.”

When Love Solihull asked Richard about why he litter picks he said it was to “inspire others to join in and care for their environment but mostly to highlight the issue and to make people think about not dropping litter”.

Sandra and Richard have now collected over 240 bags of litter and the couple have also recently started up a new community ‘TerraCycle’ recycling point within Tesco Extra, Monkspath.

If you see Sandra and Richard or any other volunteers out in a purple or yellow ‘Love Solihull’ vest, be sure to give them a wave or start up a conversation.

The Challenge!

The Love Solihull team were blown away by the positive community spirit shown recently when a group of young people from ‘The Challenge’ undertook two projects, both which made a positive difference to the borough.

The National Citizen Service (NCS) provide a 3-4 week summer programme for young people with phase 3 being social action (<https://www.ncsyas.co.uk/summer>).



The fantastic ‘Team Emeke’ carried out a litter pick in Smiths Wood followed by sprucing up a children’s play area in Kingshurst by giving it a new lick of paint. Team Emeke were joined by some locals on their litter pick and together over 12 bags of litter were collected- leaving the area looking clean, green and fabulous!

Thank you to Team Emeke and local residents who supported the young people with nice comments and compliments!

Bat Walks



Solihull's Local Nature Reserves have played host to a number of Bat Walks set up to educate and raise awareness of bats throughout the borough. The walks took place last month at Babb's Mill Park, Elmdon Park, and Brueton Park. These have habitats where bats thrive such as woodlands and wetlands. The park ranger led walks consisted of a talk about bats informing of their habitat, feeding habits, lifecycle and navigational skills. The focus of the walks are to track these flying mammals via the high pitched sounds they make to aid their night time navigation. The human ear cannot hear the sounds as they are made at a very high pitch therefore a series of detectors were used to pick up these sounds and convert them into an audible sound. The 5 bat walks have been very well attended, in total 178 adults and children joined in with the bat walks.

Finally before you go.....If you are looking for something to do now the summer holidays are over, why not join in with a local litter pick.

Friends of Shirley Park Litter Pickers

This monthly session takes place on the first Saturday of each month. Meet by the War Memorial, Asda side of the park at 2.30pm. For more information, visit the Friends of Shirley Park Community Group Facebook page [Friends of Shirley Park Community Group](#).

Balsall Common Residents Association Litter Pickers

This monthly session takes place on the second Saturday of each month. Meet at Balsall Common Library, at 10am. For more information, email lovesolihull@solihull.gov.uk.

Kingshurst Literary Litter Pickers

This monthly session takes place on the last Saturday of each month. Meet at Kingshurst Library at 10:30am. For more information, visit their web site, [Kingshurst Literary Litter Pickers](#).

There are lots more litter picking events happening across the borough to find one local to you, visit Solihull Council's website by clicking [here](#).

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

