



Litter edition

Did you know MK City Council spends over £3.5million* per annum keeping MK clean and tidy? And that figure doesn't include all the great work done by members of the public, community groups, local Parish and Town councils!

Litter not only makes an area look unsightly, but the [RSPCA regularly receives reports](#) about wild animals caught up or injured by litter too.

***This figure includes staff costs, vehicle running costs and equipment (but does not include the cost of disposal) for litter picking, street cleansing, fly-tipping, and leaf clearance in MK.**

Are you a litter hero?



Litter picking is a great way of bringing residents, both young and old, together to help to care for their local environment. Keep Britain Tidy is encouraging us all to get out there and help with a local litter pick as part of [the Great British Spring Clean 17 March to 2 April 2023](#).

Contact your [local Parish or Town Council](#) to find out if they are organising an event that you could join in with.

[The Parks Trust](#) also organise community litter picks throughout the year.

Organising your own litter pick



[Check our website](#) for advice and to find out how to:

- hire litter pick kits free of charge
- complete a Risk Assessment
- organise collection of filled sacks

Remember to contact [the local Parish or Town council](#) to let them know what you are planning.

See our Good News Stories below.

Anti-litter education

MKCC provide free [in-school talks](#), [videos](#) and [on-line resources](#)

The Parks Trust offers [free assemblies](#) for local schools

Litter Poster Competition 2023

The Parks Trust and MKCC Environment and Waste Team are calling all primary school aged children to help encourage others to keep their parks and community spaces free of litter.

The winner will have their poster displayed on noticeboards across the parks in Milton Keynes and in Parish Councils for a year! They will also receive a set of litter pickers for their school and a free session with The Parks Trust's Outdoor Learning Team!

The competition will officially be launched on 17th March 2023 to mark the start of Keep Britain Tidy's national Spring Clean.

[Find out more and how to sign up your school.](#)

2022 winning posters



What is MK City Council doing to help tackle littering?

- [All council owned public land](#) should be cleaned on [at least an eight weekly basis](#). Some areas will be visited more frequently, receiving fortnightly or even daily visits, especially around schools, shops and areas of high footfall.
- employs [litter wardens](#) to monitor and fine residents caught littering, dog fouling or fly tipping.
- provides [free litter posters and resources](#) .
- gives [guidance and support](#) to the provision of litter pick kits to residents.
- will be changing to [wheelie bins](#) for collection of rubbish and recycling in 2023, which will help to reduce the amount of litter from torn and discarded recycling and rubbish sacks.

As an Eco Champion what can I do to help?

Plastic dropped as litter is most harmful as it breaks down releasing toxic chemicals into the environment, causing long lasting [harm to animals](#) and our ecosystem. The UK government has recently agreed that from October 2023, a range of single-use plastics will be [banned](#) including cutlery and food containers.

It's important that we try and reduce the amount of single use plastics we use and dispose of our litter responsibly, so always:

- carry a reusable bottle and/or coffee cup
- when having a picnic use reusable tubs for sandwiches and snacks. Swap to reusable cutlery too
- use a bag for life
- place all litter in the bin, or
- if the bin is full take the litter home to dispose of

Good news stories

Litter picks can be held anytime of year, and our Eco Champions are out in force helping to get things sorted. So far we have heard from:

[Two Mile Ash Parish volunteer litter pickers](#) who collected 22 bags of rubbish in just two hours

[Wolverton Litter pickers](#) held a Big Pick with over 30 volunteers collecting 69 bags of litter!



[Shenley Brook End and Tattenhoe Parish council](#), Serco staff and local residents set to work clearing undergrowth in Rosemullion Avenue, Tattenhoe (pictured) including:

- at least 6 blue boxes of wine bottles
- over 30 bags of general rubbish
- several empty drums of cooking oil
- a couple of dozen metal bars and chunks of rubble

Well done to everyone involved!

Contact us

Tell us your good news stories of things you have done at home and at work to help the environment to be included in future newsletters.

Do you have a question you would like to ask the MKCC Environment and Waste team or the MK Eco Champion community?

Let us know if you have a particular eco topic you would like covered in future newsletters.

Email wasteeducation@milton-keynes.gov.uk