

Organising a litter Pick / Clear up

Here's what we did:

A number of litter picks / clear ups have been organised in St Helens

- As part of the ENCAMS (then Tidy Britain) Spring Clean representatives from four local churches spent the morning collecting litter from the local streets, before having lunch at a local café. The council provided litter pickers, gloves and bags. Glass and cans were collected separately for recycling.
- A couple of churches organised a litter pick at the Sankey Valley Park in Blackbrook. The group was a mixture of church members, scout groups, pupils from a local special needs school and members of the public who'd seen the notices. The group collected litter along the length of the park. On the way back the Rangers gave a nature walk, pointing out areas of interest. The event ended with an open-air "Songs of Praise", with music provided by the Salvation Army band.



Who we worked with + who we could have worked with:

The local council (waste / recycling officer or Rangers Service) and Groundwork (if the site is one that they are already working on) can be very helpful. If you want to involve local people then consider what groups are already there, e.g. Housing Association, Residents Group, Social Club, etc. In our case we worked with a local angling club. Your council may have community / environment wardens.

Health and safety issues:

Litter may include needles or broken glass:

- Always use litter picking sticks + wear gloves
- You will need a "sharps bin" to dispose of these safely
- Consider what age children should be to take part

If you are going to move large items consider the risks regarding lifting heavy / awkward items
Do you have a first aider in case of cuts / minor injuries?

Make sure people can wash their hands once they've finished

What went well:

People had fun and it was good because we could see the difference. It was important to make sure that there was a key group of people in the churches who would definitely get involved. This meant that other people were much more likely to get involved. It was good to provide an added incentive - e.g. lunch or the Songs of Praise. Groundwork and the Rangers were really helpful in providing litter pickers, sharps bin, bin liners and taking the litter away afterwards.

Telling people about it:

We sent press releases to the local paper, and managed to get a short article produced. Photos would have helped. The Songs of Praise event was covered in the Church of England newsletter.

What we'd do differently next time:

We could have done more to let people know who we were, what we were doing and why.

Where you can go for help or advice:

ENCAMS (previously the Tidy Britain Group) promote a big "Spring Clean" event - contact them on 01942 612639 or visit www.encams.org.

For more information about the events explained above contact:

Tom Veitch, 0151 705 2108