New Forest
Spring Clean
Organising a community clean up
Getting started

The Great British Spring Clean (GBSC) is a national campaign from Keep Britain Tidy that aims to give the country a tidy up over the weekend of 2 to 4 March 2018. The New Forest Spring Clean is supported by the Forestry Commission, New Forest National Park Authority, Commoners Defence League, Verderers New Forest, National Trust, Hampshire County Council, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

There are a few things to consider when organising a community litter pick. In this guide you will find the following information to help you organise and lead a spring clean in your community:

- Support from NFDC
- Health and safety
- Getting people involved
- Event registration form

The main weekend of events is planned for 2 to 4 March 2018 but you can organise yours for any time you wish.
Helping hand

We can support your event if you complete and return the registration form attached to this leaflet to let us know your plans. The form is also available online at newforest.gov.uk/tidyup

We can provide the following:
- Litter grabbers
- Hi-vis jackets
- Rubbish and recycling sacks
- Hazard cards in case you find fly-tipping, chemicals or needles
- Posters to advertise your event
- Certificates and stickers for volunteers to say thank you
- Collection of bags of rubbish after the event

On receipt of your form, we will check that we are happy to support your event and send you a letter of confirmation and posters to advertise your event. Your equipment will be delivered to you just prior to your event.

Equipment is allocated on a first come first served basis.
Safety first

The safety of volunteers and the public is the number one priority during your event. As the organiser, you are responsible for all aspects of health and safety.

NFDC will provide you with a health and safety guidance sheet. Events that are supported by NFDC where roads are present, must take place in an area with pavements and footpaths, and a speed limit of 30mph or less. When choosing your location, you must obtain permission from the appropriate landowner if the land is private.

Risk assessment
You should conduct a risk assessment of your chosen area and check it again on the day, before your event starts.

Insurance
Volunteers are not working for or on behalf of the council and are not covered by its insurance policies. We recommend you check to see what insurance cover you need. This will cover your legal liability arising from incidents of accidental damage or injury during your event.

First aid
It is advisable to have a first aid kit and qualified first aider at your event in case of injury. If you are anticipating a large event, you can seek advice from organisations such as St John Ambulance.
Hazard cards
Included with your litter picking equipment will be red hazard cards and cable ties. Use these cards to mark items that should not be touched by volunteers, for example needles or fly tipping.
You will be given a contact number to call before your event to arrange for these items to be collected by a trained member of staff.

Safety briefing
Whether your volunteers all start together, or arrive throughout the event, each person must be given a safety briefing. The briefing should cover all identified hazards, and provide instruction on areas and items to avoid.
You must ensure volunteers are acting safely and should ask anybody who is not to leave your event.

Signing in and out
Keep a register of the volunteers on site and sign them out when they are finished and have returned their equipment. You may want to consider asking for a contact number in case you need to get hold of them during the event.

Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times
Get people involved

There are lots of ways to let people know about your event and get them involved:

• ask local shops and community centres to put your event posters in the window or use local notice boards
• advertise it in your local newsletter
• spread the word through friends and family
• start sharing and tweeting on social media #litterheroes and #GBSpringclean
• speak to local schools and community groups to see if they would like to join your event.

We will be promoting the event on social media in the run up to the main weekend.

Register your event on the national Great British Spring Clean website keepbritaintidy.org/
Make sure you’re registered so people can find your event.

Back up plan
It is a good idea to have a contingency plan in place should your event need to be postponed; how would you tell people about the change in plan?