

## **Report on Litter Picking Activities.**

**6 April 2022**

This brief report only covers 'formal' litter picking activities carried out under the direction of Stoke by Nayland Parish Council (PC).

There are currently 9 volunteers to carry out litter picking activities in Stoke by Nayland on behalf of the Parish Council and local residents. The area we pick is quite large including all roads and lanes into and out of Stoke extending to the boundary with Leavenheath, Polstead, Nayland and including Thorrington Street. We have recently concentrated on the major roads but in future will also include some of the smaller roads and lanes. 7 volunteers live in Stoke with 2 residing in Thorrington Street.

Excellent and very productive discussions have recently taken place with James Dark with a view to ensuring that litter picking activities are covered by Parish Council Insurance. To this end a written policy and risk assessment procedures have been developed and accepted by all volunteers. We were all keen to avoid an overly bureaucratic process and I believe we have achieved that. In fact what we now have is broadly in line with what we have always done but with some very useful additions – issues that I am sure we would have missed if we hadn't gone through this process. In short the policy and risk assessment is simply 'Common Sense writ down!' A copy of both documents accompany this report. We are now covered by the PC Insurance.

All litter pickers read and understood the policy and risk assessment duties before starting the pick. I carried out a visual risk assessment whilst putting up the safety warning signs at the beginning and end of each of the 3 main roads. All pickers were provided with 'grabbers', hi-viz jackets and large plastic sacks. All wore gloves and appropriate footwear.

Much thanks must go to Adam Sedgwick, who for many years organised and coordinated all litter picking activities, and to the local 'Stokers' who helped carry out these important activities.

The recent litter pick took place on Sunday 3 April between 9.00 and 12.00. 6 people took part and the 3 main roads into and out of Stoke were covered. In total we filled 5 ½ large sacks with rubbish discarded mainly, we believe, from cars. This is significantly less than we usually pick so we all hope this positive trend continues. As well as the usual soft drink cans, fast food wrapping, face masks, beer cans, sweet wrappers and various parts from cars we found large numbers of golf balls alongside the golf club driving range (perhaps try another sport?), an empty bottle of cheap wine (again!), an empty tin of pilchards and two full tins of baked beans! These sacks were placed in local bins to be collected at the next refuse collection. We have an arrangement with Mid Suffolk / Babergh whereby they will collect any sacks we can't dispose of or any large pieces of rubbish.

The next formal 'pick' will take place in the Autumn when we hope more substantial signs will have been purchased.

David Baker. Coordinator.