

Hazlerigg Parish Council Litter Strategy

March 2023

Litter in the Village

Litter is an ongoing issue in Hazlerigg. Commonly littered items include plastic bottles, tin cans, glass bottles, cigarettes and cigarette packets, scratch cards, crisp packets, and sweet wrappers. Disposable vapes are now being found on an increasingly regular basis. There are two convenience stores in the village, both of which sell all the aforementioned items.

The village is also plagued by dog fouling. There are anti dog fouling signs on lampposts throughout the village. The signs are not prominent.

Havannah Nature Reserve lies within the parish and the most commonly littered items in the reserve are dog waste bags. Often these are on the footpaths or hanging in trees. There is one bin in the Havannah car park and one bin in the Three Hills car park.

Hotspots

Litter hotspots are around the One Stop and Premier shops, the park and the bus stops. The only bus stop with a bus shelter in the village has a bin but is still a litter hotspot. This falls within the North Tyneside boundary. Both dog fouling and littering is particularly bad along Elliott Walk.

Litter Picking

Parish councilors and residents carry out regular litter picks in the village, however, litter still poses a social and environmental problem.

The parish council has strong links with the Countryside Charity, formerly Campaign to Protect Rural England, who carry out regular litter picks. We will continue to work closely with them.

We will aim to host a monthly organised litter pick from April until September every year. During the Winter months we will encourage residents and councilors to carry out ad hoc litter picking and to loan litter picking equipment from the community centre.

Engagement

The parish council regularly posts anti-litter content on its Facebook page. In 2021, parish councilors engaged with Hazlewood Primary School to enlist their support pupils designed anti-litter posters for the village park. These were put up on the park fence but were torn down within 24 hours. They were replaced but again were torn down.

Over the years the parish council has requested more bins in the village, however, these requests have been consistently refused owing to the Council not having funds and resources to provide new bins.

What do we need to do?

- ensure provision of a suitable number of litter and dog waste bins within the parish, with support from city council
- work with schools and communities to run anti-litter campaigns
- clear up litter in the village by carrying out regular litter picks and encouraging more people to get involved
- encourage people to consider the impact of littering
- encourage businesses in the village to support our efforts to reduce littering
- ask the shops to consider trialing bottle deposit return schemes
- explore how to introduce recycling points through Terracycle
- proactively seek opportunities to encourage more recycling and reducing litter
- support national campaigns such as 'Keep Britain tidy' and clean up days through volunteering and media
- use legal powers to fine or prosecute those who choose to fly-tip, litter or allow dogs to foul in public spaces.

As a parish council we will proactively spread the message that:

- litter is harmful to people, wildlife, and the environment
- it is socially unacceptable to drop litter
- the local community is taking positive steps to reduce litter and encourage recycling
- everyone has a part to play in keeping the village today

We will do this by:

- sending clear messages on the parish council Facebook page and website
- encouraging uptake of Litter Lotto to incentivise correct disposal of litter
- encouraging people to report littering and dog fouling to Newcastle City Council
- partnering with other organisations to raise awareness of the litter problem and take action to tackle it
- taking enforcement action when we have evidence against the offender to a criminal standard of proof (“beyond reasonable doubt”)
- fostering a sense of community among litter pickers by hosting thank you events

Stakeholders

Potential stakeholders include but are not limited to

- Newcastle City Council/North Tyneside Council Ward councilors
- Newcastle City Council/North Tyneside Council Cabinet members
- Newcastle North MP
- Northumberland Wildlife Trust
- CPRE Northumberland
- Local businesses (One Stop, Premier, Baluga, Pro Fitness, Taylord for You, Springvale)
- Youth group
- Local schools

Progress on the targets set out in this strategy will be monitored on a yearly basis and will be included in the annual chair’s report.