

## Councillors Chronicles No.5 - Potential Perils of (litter) Picking

The motivation needed to join a Parish Council is to want to make a difference to the local community in one way or another. For me, the motivation was to do my bit to protect the environment and to help the green spaces and verges of the Parish to look good but also to function in an environmentally friendly way. One way to achieve this is to litter pick. I organise regular litter picks to trawl the roads and lanes and collect all the many and varied objects that some people feel is appropriate to sling out of their car windows. We've picked up everything from crisp packets to woolly hats, from KFC wrappers to hub caps (and a wine glass!). You can tell when it's getting close to Christmas, the Quality Street and Roses sweet papers are generously supplied by passing motorists. To clear up after the dedicated fly-tipper we call on Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP) who do an excellent job to support us. The DWP also help out with the litter picks, providing the kit and turning up promptly afterwards to take away our collected rubbish. Now you might think that it's a simple matter to arrange a litter pick; you put out the word, hand out the kit, pick the litter and then it's coffee and cake in the Village Hall (thanks due to the Village Hall Committee and especially to Lisa for organising the fabulous cake!). Well actually, litter picking has a few hidden 'issues': our first pick in early spring was a success, everything went swimmingly! However, another venture in the summer was more challenging as the verges and the brambles were hard to penetrate, in the autumn the quantity of fallen leaves concealed much of the litter! It seems that February is the ideal time for a litter pick .... except for the weather! I'm hoping to arrange our next litter pick soon, so watch this space. In the meantime, when you go out for your walk please take a pair of rubber gloves and a bag and collect what you can – do your own mini-pick and keep the Parish looking good!

