

Litter picking in Langport

Background

Monthly litter picking sessions were started in Langport in approximately 2018. Initially they were organised and run by Inland Waterways but in 2021 Rob Crumb took over the organising and running of these sessions.

The litter pickers meet on the last Friday of the month – weather and Rob's social life permitting (we do change the date at times!). As you can see in the table below there is an average of 8 attendees. Each person gives up 2 hours of their time.

The sessions are advertised on the digital board and periodic posters in local shops and the group is grateful to Gordon McKerrow for his help and support with posters etc. Financial support has also been given by LTC which has helped to pay for equipment.

A risk assessment is carried out each time and PPE provided.

The areas that are covered are generally Cocklemoor, Black Bridge, Huish Drove, Westover and Northmoor towards Tesco but of course areas covered depends on number of people who attend.

Activity

Date	Number of volunteers	Hours worked
Jan 30th 2026	6	12.5
Feb 28th 2026	11	22.5
Mar 27th 2026	8	16.5
April 17th 2026	8	16.5
May 29th 2026	8	16.5
June 25th 2026	Sessions cancelled due to heatwave	

Total number of hours volunteered so far this year = 84.5 hrs

On average each time the litter pickers meet they collect 7 bags of rubbish which means that so far this year 56 bags of litter have been collected.

In the past, other companies have come along as part of their commitment to the local community, for example, Hinkley Point and Kier.

A couple of years ago the group was recognised in the 'Make a Difference' Awards and were highly commended.

Recently, Rob hosted some students from Huish Academy. The students will be travelling to Cambodia later this year to be part of a volunteering project. They require several sessions of volunteering before they go to prove their commitment. 19 students and 2 teachers met up with Rob on Cocklemoor. He gave them a quick talk on the importance of litter collecting and then helped with the litter pick by the students. They collected 9 bags of rubbish.

The future

The issue of litter in the town is a rapidly growing issue. Each year, particularly in the Summer there is more and more litter.

It would be good to perhaps do more frequent litter picks but this very much depends on the willingness of volunteers to give up more time. We have done this in the past but it became more difficult to get people to do an additional session.

After attending the feedback session last week that related to the water testing Dorset Council representatives were there and Rob took the opportunity to discuss this issue with them. This year Dorset removed waste bins in selected areas. These were beaches and some particularly popular tourist spots. Dorset report, that initially, the litter problem got worse when the bins were removed but after a short period of time public behaviour altered. It appears the public realise that the litter is not being collected and they take their rubbish home. Perhaps this is something we here in Langport should be considering. Clearly a huge information campaign would be required to go alongside such an action. As a point of interest Callum, our lengthsman reports that in the Town Garden there was initially an increase in litter when the bin was removed by Landmark Langport but now after a couple of months the situation has improved drastically.

In the near future there will be a need to buy more litter hoops, grabbers and PPE.

As ever there is always a need for regular commitment to our Friday sessions.

Lastly, a huge thank you to everyone that has supported this initiative over the years.

The biggest thank you has to go to Callum who works extremely hard collecting the litter as well as emptying the bins. There are some days when he spends at least an hour of his day just picking up litter

Michele Crumb

July 2026

Below is a photo of recent litter picking session with young people from the Academy.

