



## LITTER PICKING STATIONS

### INTRODUCTION

Letchworth has joined with many communities across the UK to work to reduce single-use plastics and has the status of an Approved Plastic Free Community. To achieve this status Letchworth works with local businesses and organisations to reduce the towns' reliance on single-use plastics. As plastics do not decompose we also undertake regular litter picks in an effort to remove risks to wildlife, clean up the town and encourage others to dispose of their rubbish appropriately.

Litter Cleaning Stations were introduced at beaches to make it easy for the visitors to help out with cleaning up the environment. It has been found that these stations have inspired people to help out, even if its just for a few minutes, and have been successful in reducing litter levels.

Extract from [https://blog.surfdome.com/lifestyle\\_blog/2-minute-beach-clean-station-2015/](https://blog.surfdome.com/lifestyle_blog/2-minute-beach-clean-station-2015/)

#2MinuteBeachClean is a campaign to get everyone to grab a few pieces of marine litter on every trip to the beach. SurfDome sponsored three pilot stations that were placed on key beaches in the South West of the UK. The stations provide litter pickers, a tube where people can drop in old plastic bags for others to use and plenty of info to encourage everyone to grab a few pieces of marine litter.

A Pilot station was placed at Crooklets beach in Bude, North Cornwall in November 2014. During the year November 2013 to October 2014, the litter cleaning surveys netted 45 bags of beach litter comprising of 872 pieces of marine plastics. In the year that the beach clean station was present – November 2014 to October 2015 – the yield was just 18 bags and 534 pieces. This is a reduction of 61% in the number of bags collected.

There are plenty of people who walk in and around Letchworth and the proposal is to trial the introduction of Litter Cleaning Stations at appropriate locations in Letchworth. An initial trial will help us determine:

- a) If people will join in and help keep the town clean.
- b) Whether equipment is treated with respect or gets vandalised / goes missing.

### THE PROPOSED TRIAL

#### Choosing Litter Clearing Station Locations

- For locations which are on a circular walk, with a common start and end point, a single litter clearing station will be appropriate.
- For areas which are a small part of a longer walk, for example, a section of the Greenway, cleaning stations could be placed at consecutive entry points so that people can litter pick

and leave the equipment at the next station. As long as people walk in both directions equipment would be returned to each station.

- If there was an appropriately located local business or organisation who would be willing to manage the litter picking station (with the appropriate planning permissions) then it may be possible to lock up the litter picking station (or its equipment) at night.
- Locations are required which are accessible to the public, do not impede rights of way, does not cause a trip hazard or the potential risk of collapsing onto a passer-by on a windy day.

Initial ideas for areas where a Litter Picking Station could bring benefit:

- Jackman's section of Greenway,
- Industrial Area - Work's Road,
- Footpath from Cowslip Hill through to Standalone Farm

### Choice of Cleaning Station Equipment

Many towns are choosing to install the #2MinuteBeachClean A-Frame stations (<https://beachclean.net/boards>).



There are three purchase options:

- 1) Generic (no personalisation) £340 + VAT
- 2) Standard (your logo/s and choose 3 x icons for the white panel) £350 plus £25 set up fee £375 + VAT
- 3) Bespoke (further personalisation see the visuals below) £350 plus £100 design fee total £450 + VAT



Bulk orders over 10 will be at a reduced rate. Delivery is £25 + VAT per board for the first board and then £10 + VAT thereafter. Once delivered, the new board/s will be promoted via Facebook, Twitter & Instagram. The scheme currently have 38,000+ followers.



This is another version of a beach cleaning station which has been installed at a beach by the Scottish Wildlife Trust. This solution appears to be on wheels so could easily be moved to different locations on different days.

### **Financing**

Two ideas for financing the boards are:

- Local charities apply for grant from NHDC and / or Heritage Foundation
- Ask local companies to sponsor.

### **Rubbish Clearance**

- The #2MinuteBeachClean A-Frame boards are based on the idea that they will be restocked with bags and people will take the bags home or to their nearest bin.
- The wildlife trust solution appears to also be a collection point for rubbish bags, so would need regular emptying.

Ideally a bin which is routinely emptied should be placed by a litter picking station to reduce any impediments to participation and allow collection bags to be emptied and returned to the litter picking station for reuse.

### **Maintenance**

The sponsor / charity financing the litter picking station may not be in a position to be the owner of the equipment. The litter picking station 'owner', should ideally be the 'owner' of the land on which it sits. The owner will be responsible for risk assessment and ensuring the equipment remains fit for purpose.

### **Promotion**

Getting the support of an organisation (business, school or youth group) who is located close to the Litter Picking Station could be beneficial in encouraging local support for the initiative.

### **Assessing Success**

Three ways the trial can be assessed are:

- Follow the #2MinuteBeachClean idea where people can post that they have joined in.
- If there is a bin attached to the station the volume of waste collected could be counted.
- Suitably timed before installation and after installation litter picks could assess if the volume of rubbish declines as a result of installing the Litter Picking Station.

### **NEXT STEPS**

This note provides an initial information resource to inform a discussion on the potential of trialing Litter Picking Stations in Letchworth. A meeting of interested parties, which ideally will include representatives from the Heritage Foundation, NHDC, BID, Plastic Free Letchworth and other interested local charities should be arranged, where a decision can be made on whether a litter picking station trial is desirable and if it is how it should be set up, working through the issues outlined in this briefing note.