

## Evaluation of Petersfield Society Litterpick November 2018

In preparation for the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice, Petersfield Society organised a two-phase litterpick. Initially a large cohort of volunteers each cleared a defined area, followed by a small team clearing the Town Centre again on the morning of Remembrance Sunday.

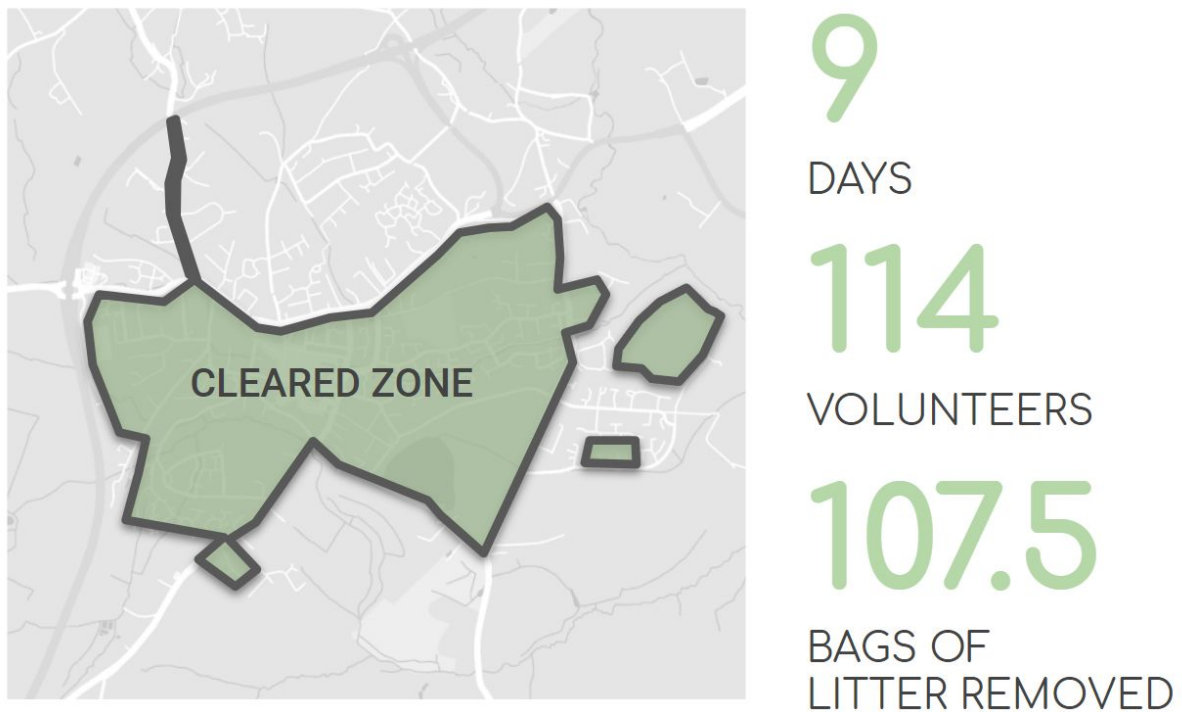


Fig 1: Impact and reach of litter-pick for Remembrance Sunday 2018

### Participants

In total 114 people, of a wide range of ages, participated. The Petersfield School and Ditcham Park School provided 50 and 12 volunteers respectively. Two young adults with special learning needs and their carers contributed, as did Cllr Deane and Cllr Matthews (PTC), Cllr Butler (EHDC) and Cllr Oppenhiemer (HCC).

### Litter collected

Volunteers were asked to report on the types of litter they found, some of which was separated for recycling at the point of collection. As shown in Figure 2, litter in Petersfield is the product of time-poor lifestyles and “unhealthy” consumption patterns, as well as thoughtless disposal.

Six full black sacks of litter were collected on the morning of Sunday 11th in the town centre - an area which had been cleared during the previous week by volunteers and is continuously monitored by EHDC contractor Id Verde - indicating how quickly litter is generated. The volunteer who cleared the Watermeadows and Tesco path was dismayed that just a week later it seemed as littered as before. A small incident of fly-tipping in the Festival Hall car park was cleared at our request, and another volunteer self-cleared other minor fly tipping near the Rival Moor playground.



Fig 2: Most prevalent types of litter in Petersfield, Nov 18, based on site reports from all volunteers

| WARD               | NO. VOLUNTEERS | BAG COUNT    | Highest no. items found | Second no. items found | Third no. items found |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| BELL HILL          | 6              | 11           | Fast food               | Alcohol                | Soft drinks           |
| CAUSEWAY           | 7              | 12.75        | Soft drinks             | Food-o-t-go            | Energy drinks         |
| HEATH              | 15             | 17           | Food-o-t-go             | Soft drinks            | Alcohol               |
| ROTHER             | 13             | 12           | Confectionery           | Food-o-t-go            | Soft drinks           |
| ST. MARYS          | 4              | 5            | Alcohol                 | Smoking                | Fast food             |
| ST. PETERS         | 69             | 49.75        | Food-o-t-go             | Smoking                | Confectionery         |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>114</b>     | <b>107.5</b> |                         |                        |                       |

Fig 3: Statistics by ward. Further details available to Councillors on request. Note: St Peter’s Ward numbers are high because 50 TPS teachers and students concentrated in this area.

### Benefits of the project

1. Waterways weave through the town and Petersfield is an unwitting contributor to plastics collecting in the oceans. Through this litterpick waterways and drains have been protected from significant plastic waste. This is, however, an on-going issue.
2. As many as 3,000 people may have attended the Remembrance Service in the Town Centre. Many of these used the car parks, railway station, trunk roads and footpaths to access the town. These sites were prioritised for litter clearance. Having completed the clearance only 30 mins before the service began, these people may not have seen any litter in Petersfield on their arrival. This may have contributed to positive impressions of the town and to encouraging those visitors to keep Petersfield clean during their visit.
3. Opportunity to work together as part of a team on an outdoor, physical project brought diverse people together. For many volunteers, especially the younger ones, this was the first time they had used a litterpicker and been part of a community environmental project. This may influence their future behaviour.
4. Discoveries of drug-taking paraphernalia in the Festival Hall car park led to swift action by the Councillors to arrange destruction of the drug den and engage in specific dialogue with the Kings Arms to protect young people.
5. Data and other observations will inform litter prevention and waste-reduction conversations with businesses, schools and organisations.

### Actions

1. Engage with and support Campaign for Protection of Rural England (CPRE) project to call for deposit scheme. Several volunteers suggested that this was necessary. The “carrot” of money to return items may be more effective than (or at least complement) the “stick” of enforcement.
2. Engage with businesses about the evidence of litter around their premises and with their branding. Pubs, food retailers, fast-food retailers specifically.
3. Collaborate with and support Andrew Davies, representative of Surfers Against Sewage in Peterfield (kindly introduced to me by Petersfield Town Council) in developing a waste reduction programme for Petersfield.
4. Call on EHDC for bins where lorry drivers park overnight in Bedford Road. There are no public bins for their considerable amounts of waste.
5. Ask EHDC to collect litter every time they collect money from the car parks. The Swan Street car park had evidently not been cleared for a very long time.
6. Offer to schools the opportunity for a speaker about litter, to follow-up their participation in the litterpick.
7. Convey feedback to the Town Council from the volunteer who cleared the Heath, including car parks, that this was surprisingly clear of litter.

With thanks to volunteers; Andrew Davies from Surfers Against Sewage for graphics in this report; Id Verde and East Petersfield Community Group for lending equipment.

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**A Trustee of the Petersfield Society**