

Will Gates

From: Litteraction [info@litteraction.org.uk]
Sent: 27 May 2011 17:58
To: Will Gates
Subject: Help us tackle vehicle litter



litteraction.org.uk
 working together to beat litter



I hope this email finds you very well. As spring turns to summer it seemed like a perfect opportunity to send a missive with all the latest news from the world of LitterAction.

Littering from cars



Before I move on I would like to bring to your attention an issue which most of us have had to deal with at one stage or another. Litter thrown from cars is a huge problem, so huge in fact, that Keep Britain Tidy estimates that 7 out of every 10 pieces of litter blighting the countryside are dropped from cars. If only this issue could be tackled properly it would make all of our lives so much easier.

As the law stands it is possible to report someone littering from their car but it's extremely difficult to get the necessary proof. As well as proving which vehicle the litter came from you also have to be able to prove which person threw the litter - which is very difficult to do. So essentially what happens is when a council writes to the car owner telling them they're subject to an £80 fine for littering, that person can shrug, say it wasn't them and there's nothing more that can be done without huge amounts of time and money being spent.

For the last three years CPRE, Keep Britain Tidy and the Local Government Association have been repeatedly raising this issue as a major barrier to litter prevention. We would like to see a small change made to the existing law to ensure that the vehicle owner is responsible for the act of littering in the first instance - as already happens with seat belt and speeding laws. The person would then be legally obliged to pay the fine, unless of course they didn't throw the litter, in which case they can nominate the person who did.

Last year the Government's lawyers confirmed any amendment to the existing law would need to be done via a relevant Act of Parliament. We now have that opportunity through the Localism Bill. I am asking you to join CPRE in supporting councils and putting an end to this particular problem. Please get in touch with your MP urging Lord Henley, the minister with responsibility for litter at Defra, to amend the Localism Bill to ensure councils have the powers they need. You can do this by [filling out an online action from the CPRE website](#). It can be done in less time than it takes to boil a kettle.

A fantastic start to the year

Since January 2011 LitterAction groups have picked up over 35,000 sacks, or approximately 170 tons, of litter. I know that for many of you it is a constant battle but I hope that you can enjoy the fruits of all this hard work over the summer. If you haven't yet added the results of your latest litter picks to your group page then could I please

ask you to do so – as I always say the information is so very useful to us.

Litter picking: 'EASI' does it!

[Earley Adopt-a-Street Initiative](#) was formed after group coordinator Peter Soul read of other adopt a street initiatives on LitterAction. After a lifetime career in which he carefully avoiding managing anyone, Peter is now in charge of a small army of volunteers.



The ambition of EASI is to prevent litter dropping by encouraging residents to take responsibility for individual streets and footpaths. Supported by two local authorities who provide all necessary equipment, EASI have recruited over 120 volunteers and recently passed 1,000 sacks of litter cleared. Peter has produced a very useful outline of some of his group's marketing activities to attract new volunteers and [posted them on the forum](#). Do take a look and see if it is something that might work for you. Peter has also very kindly agreed to answer any questions that you might have on his forum thread.

Vests and sacks

Please accept my sincerest apologies if you have recently requested any of our free vests and sacks. We are very low on stock and we have been unable to send out many of the orders. We should be getting more stock soon and I will complete all orders as soon as the new vests have arrived.

My best wishes for a warm and lovely summer.

William Gates
CPRE and LitterAction

P.S. If you [hadn't seen the news](#) – congratulations to CleanupUK on HRH the Duchess of Cornwall becoming their first ever President.

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