

CHORLEYWOOD VOLUNTEER LITTER PICKERS

My name is Bill Griffiths. I've lived in Chorleywood for more than 25 years and I've been the Neighbourhood Watch Street Coordinator for Dove Park for a lot of those years. I am also a longstanding member of the Chorleywood Residents' Association.

I have a particular bugbear about litter and I've noticed over the last few years that even a lovely village like Chorleywood is not immune to this anti-social (and criminal) activity.

As councils become more and more strapped for cash, the services they can afford to deliver will reduce or even disappear. A good example of this is our library, which is now run by volunteers topped up with a bit of paid staffing from Herts County Council.

Street cleaning is one of the services which I am sure will soon be cut to the bone, as there is no legal obligation for councils to sweep our streets. At the moment, the village has a "beat sweeper" who looks after the shopping area, but residential roads are pretty much ignored.

I'm keen to start a scheme whereby every road in the parish has a volunteer litter picker (or pickers). Three Rivers has given the go-ahead for this but it is my decision that they will have no involvement in its running. The scheme is intended to be low key – volunteers would walk their road as often as they deem it necessary, collect the bits of rubbish and then dispose of them in their appropriate household wheelie bin.

If the scheme proved popular, we could perhaps get a group of volunteers together from time to time to tackle those areas which would be missed by the "beat sweeper" or the street volunteers. I'm thinking of our public footpaths, the stairs up to the station car park, the roads used as rat runs where rubbish is chucked out of cars; we could even help the existing volunteers in our beautiful local woods and common.

If you're interested in becoming a street volunteer, or you'd like to discuss this in more detail, please email me on contact@chorleywoodnhw.org.uk or phone me if you prefer (Tel: 01923 282507)

Kind regards
Bill Griffiths