

# Barrow Community Litter Pickers



**Jan 2021**

## Loweswater Close green space

There is a small green space tucked away at the top of Loweswater Close, running alongside Humphrey Perkins School playing fields, that 2 of us decided to tackle when the latest lockdown was implemented.

Using our allocated outdoor exercise time, and keeping socially distanced at all times, over 6 visits during January we gradually scrapped away layer upon layer of rubbish that has accumulated there over the years.



To start with, there didn't seem to be very much rubbish to collect, but as you walked over the surface, you could hear all the plastic bottles and crisp packets scrunching beneath your feet – but you just couldn't see them!

The rubbish was buried under years of overgrowth from the brambles and leaf litter from the local shrubs.

Each visit was approximately 2 hours long, and most of the time we were cutting back the brambles to get to the soil underneath. We were armed with snipes and garden forks rather than litter pickers!

Despite the snow and rain, and the bitter cold at times, we managed at least one visit each week and gradually we could see some progress.



We found a variety of items: Lots of balls of all shapes and sizes, silver foil, cutlery, ropes, wooden offcuts tipped there, and so many crisp packets.



On most visits we found crisp packets that had been in the ground for at least 20 years old, some so old that they had a code rather than a best before date.



A small selection from packets we found on our final visit, Jan 02, Feb 02 and Apr 04



After over 25 hours we finally thought we had made an impact and standing back we could see the difference. Walking around you could also hear the difference too!

The brash we collected was gathered to make new wildlife habitat to encourage smaller insects and mammals in to the area.



After each session were we had at least 3 or 4 heavy bags of litter. After a quick call, these were collected by Charnwood Borough Council Environmental Team.

The area will need regular checks every few months as litter will be blown in from the nearby school playing fields, but with the hard work now done, we can already see the new growing shoots in the brambles and shrubs as spring approaches.