**Chichester District Council – Street Cleaning Service**

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**1. Introduction**

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 imposes duties under section 89(1) and (2) on certain landowners and occupiers to keep specified land clear of litter and refuse, and on local authorities to keep clean public highways for which they are responsible. Defra’s Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse expands on these responsibilities. In the following pages we clarify what we do and how we do it in order to meet our responsibilities.

**2. What is Street Cleaning?**

The Code of Practice requires us to keep highways free of litter, detritus, and fly tips. The Code recognises the challenges faced in the task and that highways will not be always spotless. For example, it is relatively straight forward to keep a cul de sac or precinct area clean but much harder to do so with a high-speed dual carriageway. Therefore, the frequency of cleaning varies for different highways.

**3. Who is responsible for what?**

A public highway includes the road surface and, in many cases, the verges and paths next to it. These structures are managed and maintained by West Sussex County Council Highways.

The A27 is managed and maintained by National Highways (formerly known as Highways England)

In both cases we are responsible for cleaning the highway.

**4. What does the council’s Street Cleaning Team do?**

Our district is 300 square miles in area and has more than 4000 highways. These include residential roads, rural country lanes and high-speed roads such as the A27. Our team of 23 staff does its best to keep the area clean through a combination of proactive cleaning and monitoring.

**5. Monitoring**

We monitor our Parishes and main roads for litter, fly tipping and detritus. We record any areas where action is required. We are aware of litter and fly tipping hot spots across the district so visit these routinely.

**6. Our Statutory Obligations**

**6.1 Litter picking**

Areas of high footfall such as shopping areas receive a daily or weekly litter pick. Other highways are monitored throughout the year and litter picking completed as required.

**6.2 Special Roads (A27 and other high speed dual carriageways)**

Overnight lane closures are necessary to create a safe working environment on the A27. This is costly and disruptive, so we complete one deep clean a year with litter picking taking place in the winter months and sweeping in the summer months. Ad hoc cleans are also completed as necessary.

Laybys receive scheduled litter picks and litter bins are emptied weekly.

**6.3 Beach Litter Picking**

We are responsible for litter picking the beaches from Shore Rd in East Wittering to Church Norton.

We complete four deep cleans a year and additional litter picking as required during peak times.

**6.4 Sweeping and removal of detritus**

Detritus is the build-up of stone and other particles. We use mechanical sweepers or broom and shovel to clear detritus from highways on a regular basis. Some of our work follows a proactive sweeping schedule. Other roads are monitored throughout the year and sweeping organised as required.

**6.5 Removal of fly tips**

We remove fly tips from public land when they are notified to us. Fly tips on private land are the responsibility of the landowner. If a fly tip is blocking a highway and presents an obstruction to users, then WSCC is responsible for closing the highway or moving the fly tip to provide safe passage.

Call them on 01243 642 105 or the Police if it presents an immediate danger to road users.

**6.6 Removal of Hazardous waste**

We sometimes have to deal with hazardous waste that has been dropped or fly tipped. In these cases, it may require investigation and special arrangements to clear.

**6.7 Dead animals**

We clear dead animals from the highway when they are reported to us. As noted above, anything that presents an obstruction in the highway should be reported to WSCC in the first instance

01243 642 105 or the Police if it presents a danger to road users.

**6.8 Abandoned cars**

CDC work in conjunction with Sussex Police to deal with abandoned vehicles – cars, vans, motorcycles caravans and trailers. It falls under Operation Crackdown.

A vehicle is classed as abandoned when it is not taxed, insured or MOT’d in the open air and has not been moved for a considerable time. SORN vehicles must be stored on private land with the landowner’s written permission, they cannot be left on the highway.

Please do not report vehicles that may have only been on site for a few days.

To report an abandoned vehicle please report at: [Operation Crackdown - Public Reporting Service](https://reports.operationcrackdown.org/abvprs/)

Please note that if a vehicle is untaxed and does not have an MOT, but is being used, this is **not considered abandoned and cannot be dealt with under Operation Crackdown. However it should be reported to the Police for investigation.**

**6.9 Abandoned Cycles**

CDC are responsible for removing abandoned cycles from public land. If the cycle is in poor condition on and is in a high footfall area the cycle will be removed immediately and disposed of. If the cycle is in good condition, we will attach a 28-day removal notice. If still on site at the end of the notice period we will remove.

**7. Our Non-Statutory Services**

**7.1 Litter bins**

There is no legal requirement to provide litter bins, but we know they help to reduce litter in areas of high footfall such as shopping centres. We have around 800 litter bins across the district, most of which are emptied on a daily or weekly basis. We are not currently installing new litter bins as we have good coverage and are operating at capacity. We also want to encourage people to take their rubbish home with them and recycle it as this is better for the environment.

Litter bins on private land such as new housing developments are the responsibility of the landowner (installing and emptying).

**7.2 Dog bins**

There is no legal requirement to provide dog bins. We have around 300 across the district and do not intend to install more as we have good coverage and are operating at capacity. Dog waste can be placed in litter bins or taken home and added to household waste.

Dog bins on private land such as new housing developments are the responsibility of the landowner (installing and emptying).

**7.3 Graffiti and Fly Posting**

There is no legal requirement to remove graffiti or fly posters. We currently provide this service on a discretionary basis. Graffiti is removed from the public realm where it is safe and reasonable to do so. For example, we may remove a tag from a door or lamppost but not a large piece of graffiti on the side of a private building.

For graffiti on A27 Road signs and bridges please contact National Highways. For graffiti on WSCC Highways signs please contact West Sussex County Council

**7.4 Gum Removal & Pavement cleaning**

There is no legal requirement to remove gum or to clean pavements. We currently provide this service on a discretionary basis.

**7.5 Leaf fall**

There is no legal requirement to remove leaf fall. However, it can form detritus when it has lost its structure and become fragmented. In this case it will be treated as detritus and cleared accordingly. Through monitoring, and awareness of hot spot areas, we endeavour to remove leaf detritus during the leaf season.

**7.6 Gullies and drainage**

We are not responsible for clearing gullies and drainage systems including v channels and pipes. Maintenance of drainage systems rests with the WSCC Highways or National Highways in the case of the A27.

**7.7 Weeding**

There is no legal requirement to remove weeds. WSCC Highways will sometimes remove them if they are damaging the structure of the highway.

**7.8 Snow and ice**

CDC is not responsible for gritting or removing snow and ice from highways or highway footpaths. WSCC Highways will prioritise gritting to critical roads and pavements.

**8. Miscellaneous**

**8.1 Damage to Street furniture benches**

We are not responsible for damage to or cleaning of street furniture such as benches, cycle racks or road signs.

**8.2 Enforcement action**

We engage the services of enforcement officers that patrol the district and issue fixed penalty notices to those caught littering. The Enforcement Team will also act on evidence provided with regard to fly tipping offences.

**8.3 Against Litter**

Prevention is better than cure, so we promote our Against Litter campaign, which aims to reduce litter arising in the first place.

We promote the anti-litter message on social media but also on roadside litter signs which are strategically placed on all main arterial roads across the District.

More information about the scheme and how you can get involved can be found on our website.

**8.4 Volunteers**

We are fortunate to have many individuals and groups that care about the environment as much as we do. These brilliant people help to keep the district clean by litter picking the areas in which they live or visit. We do all we can to help them by providing equipment and collection of filled bags. They are the unsung heroes of the district, and we thank them for all their hard work. If you are interested in litter picking, please visit our Against Litter web pages.

**9. Contacts**

Chichester District Council

Contact Centre: 01243 785 166

wasteandrecycling@chichester.gov.uk

[Street care and cleaning - Chichester District Council](https://www.chichester.gov.uk/contractservices)

West Sussex County Council

Contact number: 01243 642105

[Make an enquiry about a road or pavement - West Sussex County Council](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/make-an-enquiry-about-a-road-or-pavement/)

National Highways

[Reporting a problem :: National Highways Report a problem](https://report.nationalhighways.co.uk/report/new?longitude=-0.776623&latitude=50.825899)

Email: info@nationalhighways.co.uk

General enquiries: 0300 123 5000

Operation Crackdown

[Operation Crackdown](http://www.operationcrackdown.org/)