

Something about Longstanton is troubling me. I'd like to see if you can help.

Dear Villagers

Background

My family has only been resident in the village for 7 years, so we're relative newcomers. But, Longstanton is home and we are proud of where we live.

Since November 2012, I started to work from home and as we now have an eight month puppy I am out and about walking around the village on a daily basis. It is on these walks that I have noticed all the litter/mess left in various open areas which is unsightly and must create a 'negative' feeling for local villagers and anyone passing through.

I'll give you a couple of examples: the grass area between the Golf Course and the layby going towards the Guided Bus is full of rubbish including shoes, umbrellas, cans, bottles, packages, etc. Only the other day I followed a car whose passenger threw rubbish out of the window. There is a discarded George Wimpey sign near the recreation ground. It's years since that builder left the village!

I understand that you cannot stop this - but is there anything we could do as a community?

Help?

Having contacted Gill and Alex, at the Council, the suggestion was to find out if there are any likeminded residents of Longstanton who would be interested in making an impact.

The Litter Issue: I have been looking into ideas and gathering information from organisations that have tackled the same sort of issue. A couple of websites I have found include 'Love Where you Live' www.lovewhereyoulive.org and the 'Big Tidy Up' www.thebigtidyup.org. Love Where you Live is focussed on building a real community spirit in the area where you live and the other provides advice and kits to help local communities spend a day collecting litter from around their village, town, etc.

Why should you help?



While the majority of the rubbish may not be from villagers, it is you and I that it impacts.

"Members of the public, who are satisfied with how their area looks, are significantly more likely to be satisfied with how safe they feel in their area" (The Word on our Street 2009)

To tidy up the litter – even if it is something done one day on an annual basis will make a massive difference. Most of the rubbish looks so old I believe effort now could make a lasting impact.

Help moving forward:

Now that I have told you what's on my mind, I would love to hear from anyone who would be interested in helping:

- to organise an event to collect the rubbish
- to collect the rubbish (we would get the correct equipment to do this safely)
- to provide any funding that we may need to hire skips, etc.
- to organise a party at the end of the day for all those involved



Whatever we do is going to involve a bit of hard graft, but I really believe it would be worth it. I'd love to know what you think.

If you would be willing to help get this going in whatever way (or would just like to listen in), please contact me by email libby@chouet.co.uk or by phone 781003.

Thank you
Libby White