



## Melton lunchtime stride and pick report 12.3.2020

Our second Lunchtime Stride and Pick of 2020 saw nine members of staff from Finance, Democratic Services, Environmental Services & Port Health, Estates, and Communications, plus Cllr James Mallinder, volunteered an hour of their lunchtime filling eight full bags of litter and filled a bucket full of glass too, removing lots of potential hazards to small animals.

We took a route up Station Road towards the church, where four of us then headed down St Andrews Place and then on along Melton Road before heading back along Wilford Bridge Road to East Suffolk House—it was fantastic to receive some waves of appreciation from passing motorists—whilst the other five of us took the picturesque track past the church which took us via Waterhead Lane back to Wilford Bridge Road near the River Deben.

The main items of litter found were:

- 59 yes FIFTY-NINE drinks cans mainly alcoholic —should always go in the recycling – aluminium cans can be recycled an infinite number of times and recycling uses only 5% of the energy needed to make new aluminium from raw bauxite ore. Luckily we rescued these for recycling.
- 14 single-use plastic drinks bottles—again should always be recycled and never allowed to escape into nature as they can trap small animals and when they degrade release microplastic pollution.
- Sweet wrappers and crisp packets.



The most surprising items we found were:

- A frisbee
- The heel of a shoe
- A mattress (reported to East Suffolk Norse)



The most disgusting items found were:

- An accumulation of bagged dog dirt in the bushes behind St Andrews Place (reported to ESN)
- An old pair of pants

The total weight of rubbish collected was 21.36kg, including 4.18kg of glass for recycling (the cans and plastic bottles found were also kept separate for recycling).

This staff Lunchtime Stride and Pick, in support of the Greenprint Forum's Plastic Action campaign, was a great opportunity for staff to get some fresh air whilst getting active and connecting with nature whilst of course improving the local environment for the benefit of local people and wildlife.

Suffolk Prickles Hedgehog Rescue are the charity nominated to benefit from the £20 donation from Norse through Love East Suffolk.

