

## **The Great British Spring Clean – March 2024**

Each year Keep Britain Tidy (KBT) runs a national Spring Clean campaign encouraging communities to undertake local clean-ups and litter picks. The 2024 Great British Spring Clean is taking place between 15<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March.

Litter-picking is a simple activity that nearly everyone can do, which makes an immediate and visible difference to local areas. Keep Britain Tidy has estimated that during last year's Spring Clean, over 400,000 bags of litter were collected. The majority of volunteers also benefitted, with KBT reporting that 85% of participants had felt more pride in their local area & 74% highlighted that the activity had lifted their mood.

In the town of Newent during the past year, there have been community litter picks initiated by Newent in Bloom. Previously, the Town Council has also co-ordinated community litter picks; the last one being in 2022. On that and previous occasions many of the Councillors helped organise the event and joined in. The local litter-picks have been hugely successful & proved popular with the residents and local groups (of all ages) who took part. The litter picks have generally emanated from the Market House, covering publicly accessed areas not managed by the Town Council.

The Forest of Dean District Council is very supportive of community litter-picks and usually lends litter-pick sticks & high-vis tabards, plus provides rolls of refuse sacks & a collection service for the bags of rubbish.

The Town Council may wish therefore to consider co-ordinating and promoting a Spring Clean event this year – during or around the national campaign. One suggested date is Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024, the week before local schools break up for Easter.

To make it a more concerted community effort, the Council could liaise with Newent in Bloom and other community organisations to organise the event. In addition, we could look to seek the support of local suppliers to ideally donate some refreshments.