



Dear Councillors,

The last few months have been testing time for us all and have brought many communities closer together. It has also highlighted the benefit and importance of the environment and open spaces for our health and wellbeing. The lifting of some lock down restrictions over the last few weeks has seen the public getting out and enjoying open spaces more often. However, sadly this has been accompanied by unprecedented amounts of litter being left on our beaches, parks and riverbanks.

We are writing to you firstly to thank-you for the efforts you and your volunteers have already expended to try and keep on top of this litter surge, but also to extend a hand to offer our support.

Anglers throughout the UK follow our 'Take 5' initiative, spending five minutes after they have been fishing to collect litter from the area and take it away with them for appropriate disposal. We strongly believe this approach could and should be adopted by every individual who is spending time enjoying the outdoors. If every individual in the UK picked up just five pieces of litter once a year then we would remove a staggering 330 million pieces of litter from our environment. Not only would this help to reduce the devastating impact litter is having on our wildlife, it would relieve some of the pressure and cost on local councils and keep the beaches clean for everyone to enjoy.

We welcome the opportunity to work with you to tackle this issue and encourage the widespread adoption of the 'Take 5' by the public. This could be through placing banners or materials at key locations, social media pushes or socially distanced litter pick events. Together, we hope we can reverse the tide on litter pollution and encourage a long-term change in behaviour to give the environment the respect it deserves.

Kind regards,

Dr Emily Smith
Environment Manager
Angling Trust

<https://www.anglingtrust.net/>

<https://joinanglingtrust.net/anglers-against-litter-5/>

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For Fish and Fishing