

Below are the stats on the rubbish bags filled over the weekend. I have collected all the Blue bags containing the recycleables myself and will take them to Sharston for recycling but all the Black bags have been left immediately adjacent to the main path for collection by Sustrans staff. I hope this can be done over the next couple of days.

<b>2018 Autumn Clean-up of The FLOOP</b>		
<b>Location – nearest identifying point</b>	<b>Black bags</b>	<b>Blue bags</b>
<b>Alexandra Rd South</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Princess Rd</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Yew Tree Rd</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>Wellington Rd</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>(Sainsbury's)</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>Ladybarn Rd</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Linleywood Rd</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Slade Lane</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>Errwood Rd</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Railway bridge (Levenshulme line)</b>	<b>2</b>	
(The Quadrants and miscellaneous)	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Lattice Bridge</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>Longford Rd</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
(Station Rd)		<b>2</b>
<b>Hyde Rd</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
(Yellow Brick Rd)		<b>1</b>
<b>Alston Rd (Gorton Allotments)</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>

*Note: the black bags at The Quadrants have already been dealt with*

I am pleased to say the entire FLOOP looked completely litter-free when I cycled it yesterday evening.

It always seems with these events that we manage to achieve the objective no matter what the turnout is! So much to my surprise we were finished on both days by 1pm even though the numbers of volunteers was quite small (15 on Sat and 8 on Sun). Progress was rapid largely due to the fact that the track was pretty clean to start with, with most of the old litter now removed. There was no significant fly tipping to deal with either. Having said that we did not attempt to do all the bridges and ramps due to lack of numbers but these generally have been kept pretty clean over the year.

I keep an open mind as to whether segregating the rubbish is sensible. It does generate the Council a bit of money but whether it benefits the environment is not clear and it is very difficult to establish the facts on this. On the downside, it does present some practical and logistical problems.

We definitely need to establish what is the best method of communicating these events in an appealing way. I am struck by the fact that a protest about safety can attract 250 people whereas basic housekeeping only attracted 5 people (excluding 'family') on the Sunday.

This is relevant to the new monthly litter picks I plan for The FLOOP and The Yellow Brick Road.

Finally, you should note that this time we got brilliant support from local groups to do the two ends of the track. The Abbey Hey Forum did the bit from Fairfield to Gorton Allotments and 2nd Whalley Range Scouts did the Chorlton end. This helped a lot and we will try and build up such contacts in the future.

Many thanks for supporting the clean-up over the weekend. You'll be pleased to know that we achieved the goal of litter picking the entire track from Fairfield to Chorlton. We didn't get as many volunteers as we do normally so your contribution was particularly valuable. We removed in excess of 50 bags of litter, roughly half of which were suitable for recycling.

We now have a baseline of a relatively litter-free FLOOP but it will need a continuous effort to keep it that way and I hope you'll be able to 'do your bit' again in the future. To provide a bit of novelty, you could always bring a friend along ?

Starting soon, there will be regular monthly litter picks on both the FLOOP (mid-week) and the Yellow Brick Road (weekends) and I am determined to build in a social element to these such as a visit to a local pub or in the summer, a picnic for example. We aim to ensure these events are well publicised so I hope you'll get to hear of them.