

Volunteer Pledge

“Friends of”

Broadstone Town Council is committed to supporting residents who want to play an active part in caring for and improving the places that are important to our community.

The “**Friends of**” scheme provides an opportunity for local volunteers to work together to undertake appropriate, practical repair, maintenance and improvement activities within Broadstone.

Groups may be formed around a particular area, facility or community space and may work on land owned or managed by Broadstone Town Council or another landowner, but only once the necessary permission has been granted. Where required, Broadstone Town Council will seek and obtain this permission on behalf of the group.

Our aim

The purpose of a Friends of group is to:

- encourage community involvement and pride in Broadstone;
- support the care, appearance and improvement of local areas;
- provide opportunities for residents to volunteer their time and skills;
- work constructively with landowners and relevant organisations; and
- complement, rather than replace, the work and responsibilities of the landowner or relevant authority.

Our commitment

Broadstone Town Council will work with Friends of groups to help establish appropriate arrangements for their activities and, where necessary, seek the agreement of the relevant landowner before work takes place.

We will encourage groups to work safely, responsibly and respectfully, recognising that not all types of work will be suitable for volunteers.

Our support

Broadstone Town Council will provide support to Friends of groups, subject to the agreed activities and the availability of Council resources.

This may include:

- **Public Liability Insurance:** Volunteers undertaking agreed activities as part of an approved Friends of group will be covered by the Town Council’s Public Liability Insurance, subject to the terms, conditions and exclusions of the policy;
- **Tools and equipment:** The Town Council may be able to provide basic tools or equipment to support the group’s activities. This will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will depend on the nature of the work and the equipment available. Any tools or equipment provided by Broadstone Town Council will remain the property of the Town Council and must be used only for agreed activities. The Town Council may require tools or equipment to be returned at any time.
- **Practical support and guidance:** The Town Council will work with groups to help establish appropriate arrangements for their activities and provide guidance where appropriate.
- **Risk assessments:** Where required, Broadstone Town Council will prepare a risk assessment for the agreed activities. Volunteers will be responsible for reviewing the risk assessment on the day of the activity, ensuring that the conditions remain safe and appropriate before work begins, and following the control measures and guidance set out in the risk assessment.

Our volunteers

Friends of groups are made up of volunteers who freely give their time, skills and enthusiasm to benefit their local community.

Volunteers will work within the agreed scope of their group and will not undertake work for which they are not suitably experienced, trained or authorised.

Working together

We want Friends of groups to be positive, welcoming and community-focused. The intention is not to take ownership of local spaces, but to give residents a meaningful opportunity to help care for them.

By working together with Broadstone Town Council, landowners and other relevant organisations, we can help make Broadstone an even better place to live, work and visit.

Together, we can make a difference to the places we all value.