

## Two local heroes clean Caledonian Park to raise awareness of COP26

29 October 2021



*A poster in Caledonian Park prompting park visitors to clean up. Photo Credit: Meike Eijsberg*

Only two locals showed up to the family litter picking event organised by Caledonian Park in Holloway to raise awareness of climate change and COP26. Despite the rain, the two-person team put on their protective gloves and got to work.

Caledonian park regularly organises litter picking events and turnout is usually high. According to Colin Chester, the park ranger and one of the attendees, the events are organised to give the park a good clean and to help people understand the importance of reducing waste and the negative effect litter has on the environment.

Denise\*, a New Zealand national now living in Holloway, spoke about the differences between the two countries. "There's a big philosophy there of 'leave nothing but your footsteps'. You take your trash with you. I hope people here will learn to do the same."

Chester emphasized that "This action is not going to save the planet, but we need to be aware of how much waste we are producing."

Packaging and plastic waste is a common problem in Islington. According to [Government Statistics](#), 353kg of waste was produced per household in 2019-2020 and barely 30% of this waste was sent for reuse or recycling.

The litter picking also contributes to the wider community, according to Chester. He explained that the park historically had a reputation of anti-social behaviour and used to be a hub for drug dealing and prostitution [back in 2016](#). “But [in] the last few years, there has been a change in the way people perceive the area,” he said. “And after two Covid lockdowns, people have a new appreciation for what’s on their doorstep. They want to do their part to keep it clean.”

\* Did not want to share her last name.