Timeline for Thurrock litter pick campaign

October 2014
Became volunteer river warden patrolling stretch of the Thames Estuary Path from Leigh-on-Sea to Tilbury Town

July 2015
Put in touch with Thames21 and began to survey Tilbury riverside

October 2015
First litter pick took place around Tilbury Power Station yielding 91 sacks of litter

October 2016
Seventh litter pick took place prompting e-mail to Thurrock Council
Checklist for a successful riverside litter pick

• Research the area first on foot
• Don’t attempt too much
• Estimate numbers and plan accordingly
• Check the tides and weather forecast
• Take expert advice, talk to locals
• Brief volunteers fully beforehand
• Wear suitable clothing and sturdy footwear
## Summary of events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Volunteers</th>
<th>Total Sacks</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Recycle</th>
<th>Trollies</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Tilbury Fort and Power Station - Eastern Shoreline</td>
<td>22/10/15</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>91</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Also tyres, car dashboard fascia, hoardings and traffic cones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Tilbury Fort and Power Station - Eastern Shoreline</td>
<td>14/11/15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Also nylon fishing line, bait, seaweed, plastic bait, tackle, wrappers, newspapers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Grays Beach</td>
<td>27/2/16</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Grays Wharf Hotel</td>
<td>29/5/16</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Paint cans, trays, aerosol sprays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Grays Graffiti Wall</td>
<td>7/8/16</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Grays Beach</td>
<td>24/9/16</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>72</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Also bulky items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Tilbury Fort and Western Shoreline</td>
<td>1/10/16</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>47</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Also bulky items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Tilbury Fort and Eastern Shoreline</td>
<td>13/11/16</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>62</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Also bulky items including life belt and TV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>158</strong></td>
<td><strong>515</strong></td>
<td><strong>419</strong></td>
<td><strong>96</strong></td>
<td><strong>28</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tilbury:
location of picks 1,2,7 and 8

① Fort and power station
② Power station, eastern shoreline
⑦ & ⑧ Fort and western shoreline
Challenges of Tilbury shoreline

- Remoteness of site and over a mile in length
- Shoreline flooded at certain times
- Dealing with large quantities of rubbish borne on 7m plus spring tides (flotsam)
- Needed agreement of Power Station to allow us to leave the sacks inside their perimeter
- Large deposits of ‘flushables’ including cotton buds and bottle tops
Tilbury shoreline before the pick
Tilbury shoreline after the pick
Grays

location of picks 3, 4, 5 and 6

5 Graffiti Wall  4 Wharf Hotel  3 Grays beach  6 Grays Beach
Challenges of Grays beach

- Coping with large number of attendees
- Sheer volume of litter and tidal deposits
- Needed grappling irons to recover trollies
- Needed assistance of yacht club to act as a holding depot
Coping with volunteers: Attendees included councillors, Grays Phoenix, Tilbury Riverside Big Local, Thurrock Yacht Club, River Thames Society, scout group and a local artist with Thames21 managing it all!
Grays beach after pick
Enjoying a well-deserved cuppa at the yacht club
Making a difference: pick no 3
...134 sacks and 18 trollies
Challenges of Graffiti Wall

• Remoteness of site - wall extends over a mile in length to Purfleet
• Access through a nature reserve
• Dealing with toxic paint materials including trays, pots and sprays
• Limited resources, difficultly recruiting volunteers
• Much of the pathway remains untouched
Graffiti Wall: shelter before the pick
Graffiti Wall: shelter after the pick
How much litter is there along Thurrock riverside?

• In 2016, assuming 50 items per sack, (conservative estimate) we removed over 25,000 items of litter
• Split is roughly 50:50 between tidal deposits and domestic litter
• We expect this to be repeated in 2017