# Loch Ken litter crisis deepens after council removes bins during Bank Holiday surge



During the recent Bank Holiday weekend, the serene beauty of Loch Ken in Dumfries and Galloway faced an unexpected challenge: an influx of litter left behind by campers transformed the area into what some described as a scene reminiscent of "Blackpool beach." Locals and environmental advocates have pointed fingers at the council, attributing this unfortunate situation to the recent removal of litter bins from laybys around the lake. This cost-cutting measure, part of broader budget reforms implemented by the local council, has raised serious concerns among residents who believe it exacerbates littering and threatens local wildlife.

Robin Hood, a resident who has lived beside Loch Ken for nearly four decades, expressed his dismay at the current state of the area. He pointed out that, historically, bins had been available to manage waste effectively, but with their removal, the responsibility seems to have shifted to individuals who may not prioritise proper disposal. "There were 50 people camping on the west bank of Loch Ken over the weekend," he said, noting the disarray left behind. "It’s absolute madness. If you leave all that rubbish there, the red kites will be scavenging amongst the waste. It’s no good for the wildlife and no good for the area."

The Loch Ken Trust, a charity dedicated to protecting the region, also echoed these sentiments, stressing the ecological repercussions of increased litter. Their spokesperson highlighted that the absence of rubbish bins may lead to a greater volume of litter, as visitors might be disinclined to carry their waste home. This situation becomes particularly pressing with the impending tourist season and the potential for a rise in visitor numbers, particularly if the area becomes more popular following recent promotional efforts for outdoor recreation in Scotland.

Council decisions have been shaped by financial limitations, with plans to save approximately £42,000 annually by eliminating bins from laybys outside 30mph zones. However, local concerns about the loss of facilities essential for managing waste have sparked heated discussions about the priorities of council funding. Critics argue that while budgetary constraints are a reality, the choices made are detrimental not only to public health and the environment but also to the community spirit that attracts visitors to the area.

The situation at Loch Ken is emblematic of broader trends observed in outdoor recreation areas, where the increase in camper numbers, particularly during holidays, often clashes with inadequate waste management systems. This is not just a problem isolated to Loch Ken; similar issues of litter and environmental neglect have surfaced in many popular camping and outdoor spaces across Scotland, often leading to complaints from both the public and local authorities.

Amidst these challenges, efforts to highlight responsible camping practices – such as the Leave No Trace principles which emphasise the importance of taking all rubbish home – are gaining traction. Visitors are encouraged to respect the natural beauty of areas like Galloway Forest Park, known for its stunning vistas and dark skies, reinforcing the community's role in protecting these spaces.

For the time being, the residents near Loch Ken have taken it upon themselves to rectify the littering issues, with Mr Hood even pledging to clean up the rubbish left behind. However, without a supportive framework for waste disposal, the risk of ongoing litter and its effects on local wildlife remains a pressing concern. The interplay between public infrastructure, community responsibility, and environmental stewardship will need to be navigated carefully, especially as the tourism season approaches.

As Loch Ken faces these challenges head on, the hope is that a solution can be found that balances cost-saving measures with the preservation of the region's natural beauty, ensuring it remains a cherished destination for generations to come.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1-3
2. Paragraph 4
3. Paragraph 5
4. Paragraphs 6-7
5. Paragraph 8

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/campers-leave-piles-rubbish-dumfries-35172526> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.lochkenholidaypark.co.uk/> - Loch Ken Holiday Park offers a range of accommodations, including holiday homes, touring pitches, and camping sites, all set in a peaceful location overlooking Loch Ken in Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland. The park provides various amenities such as heated toilets, boat hire, free Wi-Fi, and a football pitch. It also features a children's play area and offers activities like fishing and table tennis. The park is open year-round and welcomes pets, making it suitable for families and outdoor enthusiasts alike.
3. <https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Hotel_Review-g316001-d2187545-Reviews-Loch_Ken_Holiday_Park-Castle_Douglas_Dumfries_and_Galloway_Scotland.html> - Loch Ken Holiday Park, located in Castle Douglas, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland, has received positive reviews for its well-maintained facilities and beautiful setting. Visitors have praised the park for its cleanliness, friendly staff, and the variety of activities available, including fishing, boating, and exploring the surrounding area. The park offers a mix of static caravans, touring pitches, and camping fields, catering to a wide range of preferences. Some reviews mention issues with waste disposal during the COVID-19 pandemic, but overall, the park is well-regarded by guests.
4. <https://www.ukcampsite.co.uk/sites/reviews.asp?revid=3240> - Loch Ken Holiday Park in Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland, has received a 9/10 rating from 125 reviews. The park offers a variety of facilities, including heated toilet and shower blocks, free Wi-Fi, a children's play area, and activities such as fishing and boating. It provides both hardstanding and grass pitches for tents, caravans, and motorhomes, as well as holiday homes for hire. The park is open year-round and is known for its peaceful setting and family-friendly atmosphere.
5. <https://www.lochken.co.uk/accommodation/glamping/loch-ken-camping> - Galloway Activity Centre offers a family-friendly camping site on the shores of Loch Ken, approximately 10 miles from Castle Douglas. The campsite features five generous pitches suitable for tents, caravans, and camper vans, with a modern toilet block and basic elsan disposal. The centre provides a range of outdoor activities, including sailing, windsurfing, kayaking, and mountain biking. Guests can also enjoy the on-site Waterfront Cafe, which offers homemade food throughout the day. The campsite operates a strict no-noise policy after 10pm to ensure a peaceful environment.
6. <https://justgoexploring.com/destinations/camping-in-galloway-forest-park/> - Galloway Forest Park in Scotland offers opportunities for wild camping without the need for a permit. Campers are encouraged to be considerate and responsible, adhering to guidelines such as keeping away from buildings and roads, avoiding camping in fields with crops or farm animals, and taking all rubbish out with them. The park is known for its natural beauty and is a designated Dark Sky Park, making it ideal for stargazing. Visitors are advised to follow Leave No Trace principles to preserve the environment.
7. <https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g551847-d2258443-Reviews-or50-Campsie_Glen_Holiday_Park-Fintry_Scotland.html> - Campsie Glen Holiday Park in Fintry, Scotland, offers a range of facilities and accommodations. However, some reviews highlight issues with littering and inconsiderate behavior from other campers, such as leaving rubbish and allowing dogs to foul grassed areas. The park management has acknowledged these concerns and is considering stricter measures to enforce park rules. Despite these challenges, the park is praised for its beautiful setting and well-maintained facilities, including a mix of static caravans, touring pitches, and camping fields.