

When will you collect?

There's no best practice in terms of when to remove a memorial, or when to start, or when to stop; putting any kind of parameters is unhelpful. Spontaneous memorials function as important societal mourning rituals, so they need to be given space and time to grow.

Spontaneous memorials need to be considered as a kind of community collective response and that it's really more about how you communicate what's happening with the memorial, rather than be fixated on a rigid timeframe of when things are going to happen.

There will always be factors beyond your control, like the threat of adverse weather. Be prepared for the unexpected and have emergency removal plans in place.

Perhaps it's not a question of when to collect but rather when to starting having a presence - there's a lot to be said for simple being at the memorial site and talking with people. Doing this can be a great way to start gauging public feeling about next steps and to build relationships with community stakeholders.