

FLY-TIPPING ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

Since 2016, the Legal and Community Services teams have been working together to address the ongoing problem of fly-tipping across the district. In summary, the work has included introducing and implementing procedures to effectively investigate reports of fly-tipped waste and taking steps to identify individuals responsible wherever possible to enable culprits to be issued with fixed penalty notices (FPNs) and in more serious cases prosecuted.

Generally, the Council chooses to issue FPNs for a first offence where the deposit is relatively minor, for example, between 1 and 3 sacks of typical (non-hazardous) household waste. Since February 2017, the Council has issued 83 FPNs either for fly-tipping or for breaches of an individual's duty of care towards waste. The value of these FPNs is in the region of £8,000. This income has been used to cover costs of promoting good practice and deterring prospective offenders, for example signage and CCTV surveillance equipment. To illustrate the value of such expenditure, in the past waste was often deposited next to the recycling containers at Caincross car park. By deploying CCTV cameras, officers were able to identify a number of offenders by obtaining their names from the DVLA with reference to the vehicles they were driving. This has resulted in a number of FPNs being issued and a marked decrease in incidents of fly-tipping at that site.

In more serious cases, for example, larger deposits or deposits on a commercial scale, or where recipients of FPNs fail to make payment, matters are prosecuted by the Legal team. Cases which have resulted in significant penalties including recovery of the Council's legal costs have included:

- A 4-month suspended prison sentence for a man who hired a van and used it to collect household waste and waste asbestos from residents in the district and then dumped the waste on a road at Ryeford; and
- A Cheltenham building firm being ordered to pay nearly £8,500 for failing to prevent a truckload of builder's waste it produced from being dumped on a highway within the district.

Successful outcomes are routinely publicised in the local press and on SDC's website. This is key to maintaining confidence in the Council's approach to fly tipping and importantly, serves as a deterrent to other potential offenders.

In some cases, problems have been resolved effectively by informal engagement. As an example, following the introduction of wheeled bins, it became apparent that at one site (at Water Street in Dursley), residents and others from further afield were depositing black sacks on a wall rather than disposing of them appropriately. Following the deployment of CCTV and investigation of the content of the sacks, a number of warning letters were issued and the problem has now been resolved.

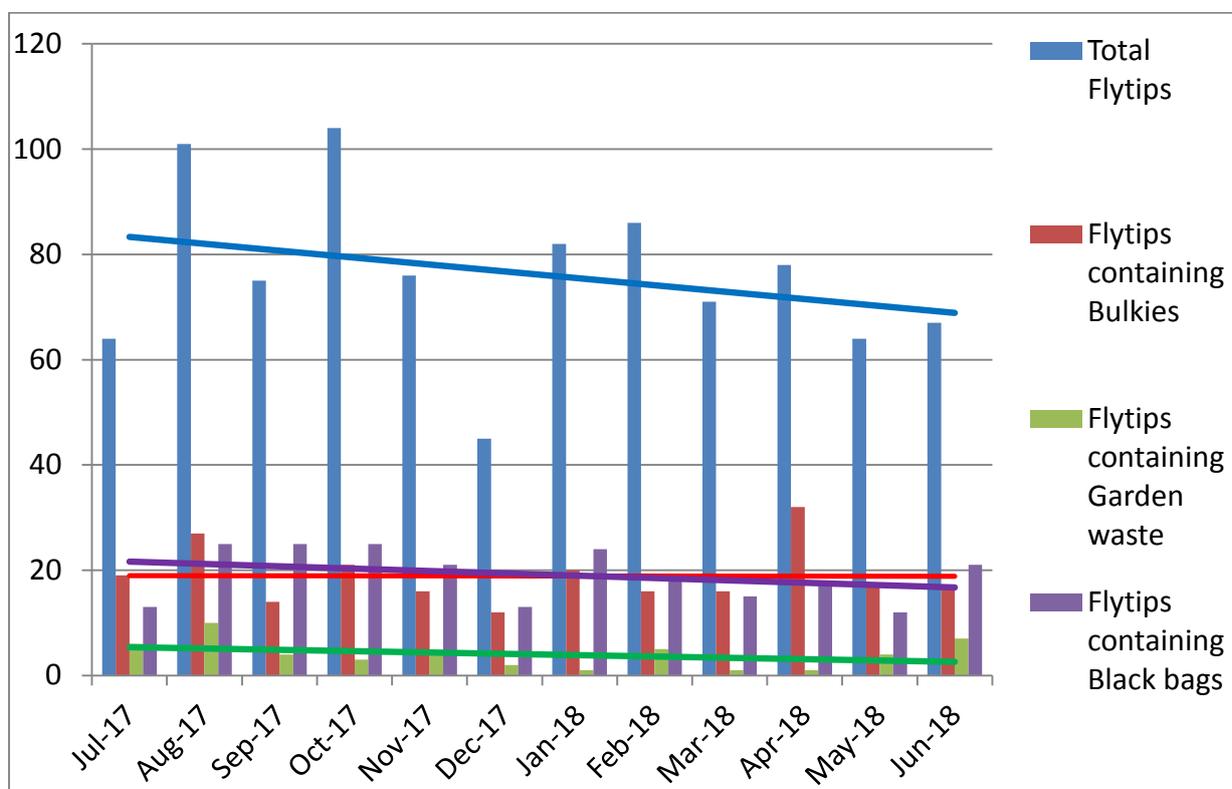
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STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

As well as investigating individual offences, the Community Services team analyse fly-tipping within the district in order to gain an understanding of the baseline trends and any impact service changes around waste may have had. This helps ensure that pre-emptive action can be taken by the Council to help avoid offences occurring. Fly tipping data is recorded as reported incidents and analysed under 3 sub-categories of bulky items (i.e. items that residents could have paid the Council to collect), garden waste and black bags. These subcategories help to identify any service specific impacts such as the increase in bulky collection charges or the introduction of wheeled bins.

The graph below shows recent data from July 2017 to June 2018. The linear trends illustrate that overall, fly tipping incidents have reduced over this period. Although it is very difficult to identify trends in the fly tips due to the random nature of fly tipping, it is apparent that peaks can be seen to occur around the annual holiday seasons at the end of Summer, after Christmas and during Easter. The team is seeking to promote good practice in advance of such times to discourage flytipping.

The data also indicates that although Horsley tip was closed during June 2018, this had little impact on the number of incidents of fly tipping recorded within our district.



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