

LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

17 NOVEMBER 2020

FLY TIPPING ACTION PLAN

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To inform Members of the challenges in progressing the Fly Tipping Action plan and to agree a new timetable for implementing co-ordinated actions in the district. The report also sets out the impact of Coronavirus on levels of fly tipping and the enforcement response.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 In September 2019 a report was presented to the Leisure & Environment Committee setting out an outline approach to fly tipping. This was in support of the Council's Cleaner, Safer & Greener campaign and the objectives of the Community Plan. The action plan forms part of the 'Not in Newark & Sherwood' Campaign.

2.2 Fly tipping is the illegal disposal of household, industrial, commercial or other "controlled" waste without a waste management licence. The waste can be liquid or solid. Fly tipping is not the same as littering.

2.3 In order to provide a co-ordinated approach to fly tipping and to ensure that a robust and effective plan is in place a 'Fly Tipping Task Group' was established to develop a range of actions across a number of disciplines that provide a framework for future work.

2.4 The task group consists of staff from the following areas:

- Public Protection
- Environmental Services
- Communications
- Legal

2.5 The action plan that has been developed is multi-faceted in that it addresses short, medium and long term solutions across enforcement, education, prevention and public awareness.

2.6 The Task Group was meeting regularly and Members will be aware of some of the actions that have already been implemented. For example the review of the Council's Bulky Waste Collection service has been undertaken and changes to the service are to be introduced in April. A more co-ordinated approach to enforcement has also been implemented with the Community Protection Officers now working more closely with both the Neighbourhood Wardens in the Housing Service and the Environmental Protection Officers in the Waste Team. This approach has already seen an increase in the enforcement activity in relation to fly tipping.

- 2.7 The impact of the coronavirus on the delivery of the actions has been profound. Staff resources have been stretched across much of the Council. The focus within the Waste team has been the delivery of essential services such as refuse collection and the challenge of doing this in a safe socially distanced way. The Public Protection team has had to respond to an increase in demand in many areas as well as advising on and enforcing the coronavirus regulations across the district. Because of this many of the activities set out in the original action plan have been delayed and work has taken place to profile the action plan with a view to starting up the programme in a meaningful way next year.
- 2.8 The proposals for the action plan are set out below.
- 2.9 What was noticeable at the start of the national covid lockdown was an increase in fly tipping. Many factors contributed to this, the closure of the Household Waste Recycling Centres, the reduction in domestic refuse collection and that more people were at home and producing more waste. During this time, we were able to continue the investigation and removal of fly tips. Wherever evidence is found, fixed penalty notices are issued or in the case of large fly tips legal proceedings initiated.
- 2.10 The table below highlights the increase in numbers of fly tips and the weight collected.

Month	Number of Fly tips		Weight of Fly Tips	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
April	97	124	26.32	33.46
May	108	128	33.84	40.18
June	101	123	26.72	45.46
July	110	121	25.89	38.82
August	139	122	29.03	Not yet available
September	85	125	34.16	Not yet available

- 2.11 Since the national lockdown in late March there have been 11 fixed penalty notices issued for flytipping. These have been issued to people responsible for the fly tip but also to householders that have not exercised their duty of care in ensuring that anyone offering a waste service is suitable licensed.

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 The action plan set out below shows the range of actions that have been developed and the progress so far. It also highlights those that have not been progressed and the intended start time.

Action	Progress	Comments
Re-launch the Council's bulky waste service	Complete	This service was suspended for 3 months due to covid. It was restarted with the agreed reduced prices and demand has increased.

Promotion and advertising of new bulky waste service on the collection vehicle	Postponed	The bulky waste service vehicle were redeployed when the service was suspended. The advertising will be in place when a normal service can be guaranteed.
Promote three free collection days in three communities, to dovetail with the Days of Action	Postponed Demands on essential services have not allowed this to take place	Areas will be identified next year to tie in with days of action. Planning to commence in March 2021
Produce leaflet for tradespeople reminding of the responsibilities of carrying waste and ensuring its proper disposal	Complete/ongoing	Whenever officers visit business they are promoting the message that waste must be disposed of correctly and legally.
Day of Action addressing illegal waste carriers to be carried out in conjunction with the Police	Postponed A second day of action in the western side of the district has been put on hold as it could not be done in a covid secure way.	When circumstances allow this will be arranged in partnership with the police and the Environment Agency
Scrapyard visits with the Police	Postponed Staff resources have not been available for this.	This will be revisited in March 2021
Install 'covert cameras' and signage at key sites	On-going	A trial site is being monitored by mobile CCTV. The layby has seen a reduction in fly tipping.
Negotiate with the County Council and amended access to Household waste sites for trade vehicles	On-going. Positive progress has been made. NCC and Veolia have agreed in principle to open the site in Newark to vehicles not exceeding 3500 kg on a pay as you visit basis. Veolia are undertaking feasibility study to ascertain the implications of this.	The scheme will be monitored and reviewed to ascertain take up and whether it contributes positively to a reduction in fly tipping
Examine feasibility of covert operation for rogue waste collection businesses.	Postponed This is delayed due to availability of partners, limited staff resource and covid secure issues	Review in new year with a view to taking place summer 2021
Approach local social media sites to ensure the irresponsible promotion of 'tip run' requests and services are monitored to prevent the risk of residents falling foul of the law	Postponed Delayed due to covid demands. Staff in Communications and PR have been mainly focused on coronavirus messaging.	This will be kept under review and actions initiated when possible.

Examine feasibility of using Public Space Protection Orders to control fly tipping on Deerdale Lane/Eakring Road	<p>25% complete</p> <p>Good progress being made. An agreement in principle has been reached with the County Council, Forestry Commission and Mansfield DC. The Council's legal team have confirmed that the PSPO can be used for this purpose.</p>	The terms of the PSPO and the way it will operate now need to be developed.
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3.2 Many of the items set out above will not be able to be progressed effectively in the current Covid climate. However, day to day enforcement continues.

4.0 Equalities Implications

4.1 The set of actions likely to be involved in the campaign have been assessed and it is considered that with the exception of the use of covert cameras there are not likely to be any implications.

4.2 If, and when, covert cameras are deployed these will be done in accordance with the information Commissioners Office guidance and the protocols issued by the Surveillance Commissioner.

5.0 Digital Implications

The use of CCTV and associated technologies may be something that is developed in the future but at the moment there are no digital implications associated with this report.

6.0 Financial Implications (FIN20-21/2191)

6.1 The CSG/Enforcement reserve has £15,000 committed to support this work, as agreed in September 2019. This is still available when required.

6.2 The fixed penalty notices generate relatively small amount of income. The penalty is £400 reduced to £200 if paid with 14 days.

7.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives

7.1 Objective 1 of the Community Plan is to 'Improve the cleanliness and appearance of the local environment'. This is supported by the following actions:

- Reduce littering, fly-tipping, graffiti and dog fouling, through a programme of education aimed at changing behaviours.
- Increasing the number/profile of enforcement actions
- Supporting communities to build civic pride and facilitating activities to enable communities to improve their local areas.

7.2 The campaign actions proposed will assist in the delivery of this element of the Community Plan.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the progress made on the action plan be noted and to:

(a) Agree the new time table for delivery of the action plan: and to

(b) Support the enforcement actions being taken against fly tipping.

Reason for Recommendation

To allow a sustained and targeted programme to be delivered to reduce the level of fly tipping in the district.

Background Papers - Nil

For further information, please contact Andy Kirk ext 5577 or Alan Batty ext 5467.

Matthew Finch

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