

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

28th September 2020

REPORT OF *Councillor Michael Talbot*

A.3 *Instances of Fly Tipping on Public Land*

Report prepared by *Jonathan Hamlet*

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

Flytipping on public land

INVITEES

Councillor Michael Talbot Portfolio Holder for Environment and public spaces, who will be in attendance to answer questions.

Responsible Officers for investigation of fly tipping on public land: TDC Street Scene Officer Darren O'Neill and TDC Technical Officer Matt Leach.

BACKGROUND

To provide the committee with an overview of reported instances of fly tipping on public land and the associated trends along with the process and actions undertaken as part of the investigations, deterrents employed and removal of fly tipping from public land.

DETAILED INFORMATION

Instances of fly tipping over recent time.

The table below highlights the numbers of reported flytips recorded by this authority on a monthly basis from January 2019 upto and including August 2020.

Calendar Month	Number of reported flytips
January 2019	79
February 2019	95
March 2019	74
April 2019	80
May 2019	89
June 2019	80
July 2019	72
August 2019	85
September 2019	133
October 2019	131
November 2019	107
December 2019	95
January 2020	152

February 2020	117
March 2020	111
April 2020	185
May 2020	160
June 2020	213
July 2020	250
August 2020	167

For further reference and context the following table provides annual totals for the last full 5 years and the figures for the current year; 2020:

Year	Number of reported fly tipping
2015	1205
2016	1381
2017	1342
2018	1221
2019	1120
2020 (to date)	1380

The monthly data highlights the impact of COVID and the subsequent closure of the ECC recycling centres combined with households producing extra black bag household waste and DIY/construction waste during this period.

Excluding 2020 the general trend in fly tipping from 2016 is one of a gradual reduction.

Fly tipping investigation and action process and deterrents.

With a continued commitment from the authority to combat fly tipping an additional Technical Officer post was created during the Autumn of 2019 within the Street Scene Team. The Officer whose previous experience was working within Essex Police is responsible for the investigation of all fly tipping reports on public land.

Since his introduction the team have tightened up on the reporting procedure to ensure that all incidents of fly tipping are firstly reported in the correct manner; via the online portal or the customer support team; this allows for more efficient and accurate data capture and response to FOIs, the identification of hotspot areas and pattern monitoring. Single point of report receipt allows more rapid response to incidents; same or following day all flytipping reports are visited to firstly check their validity, if still present and on public land the incident is searched for evidence, if none is found and depending upon the location door knocking of the local area is undertaken to ascertain the potential origins of the waste.

Where evidence is found the homeowner is visited and depending upon the incident a three tiered approach is undertaken which encompasses the corporate guidance on firstly engaging with the community, educating and lastly enforcing. All reports of fly tipping are logged along with evidence found, actions taken including offenders details, which are monitored for future reports of fly tipping.

This approach has had dramatic effects in reducing the amount of repeated fly tipping without the need to take enforcement action and whilst on the surface it may appear that no formal enforcement action is taking place the effect of the Officer being seen to search for evidence and carrying out door step interviews with a first stage warning is as a deterrent having a positive impact, It must be stressed that where the process deems its necessary and within the public interest the team will take enforcement action.

CCTV

As an additional deterrent and to also aid in the capture of evidence the Officers are investigating the use of suitable covert and overt cameras. It must be noted that every fly tipping location is unique which in turn will impact the camera system(s) that can be utilised.

Partnership working

Holland Marshes; between Holland on Sea and Gt Holland is a habitual location for fly tipping; the area at night is remote with no street lights and contains a number of off street laybys which are subject to fly tipping, ranging from individual items upto tipper loads. One layby in particular was subject to fly tipping due to it having an overgrown earth bund in front of it which provided a level of privacy to those wishes to undertake these criminal acts. Working with a local landowner, TDC engineering department, Veolia and a private waste removal contractor (grab lorry) not only was the waste cleared but the overgrown vegetation cut back, cleared and the earth bund removed and levelled of to now provide an area with no hiding place for the fly tippers and vastly improving the street scene of the area.

The works were carried out in the first half of July and prior to that there were frequent, and oftentimes substantial, incidents of flytipping. In the two months since the completion of the works there has only been a single incident at the location which is of much smaller scale than “regular” flytips.

BEFORE



AFTER



Removal of fly tipping

Removal of fly tipping is typically carried out by three methods:

1. Evidence is found and following a door step interview the householder removes the waste and disposes in a suitable manner.
2. Flytipping of non-hazardous household waste where no suitable evidence is found and is consequently passed on to the Veolia Hit Team to remove (3.5 tonne caged vehicle driver + loader), Veolia invariably carry out this duty within 72 hours/3 working days of receipt of the job.

As part of the new street sweeping contract an additional mobile crew similar to the Hit Team are also available for the removal of fly tipping, whilst their availability is limited with other duties this additional available resource can help during busy periods or removal of larger fly tippings.

3. Flytipping of hazardous waste and non household waste (asbestos, oils, caravans, large quantity soils/hardcore/mixed waste) where no suitable evidence is found, these are passed on to a specialist contractors each of whom hold the relevant waste carriers licence and waste permits to transport and dispose of these items. Due to their specialism the turnaround for these removals invariably takes longer but normally no longer than 10-15 working days.