

MEETING:	REGULATORY COMMITTEE
DATE:	15 NOVEMBER 2011
TITLE OF REPORT:	UPDATE ON ACTIVITY OF COMMUNITY PROTECTION TEAM
PORTFOLIO:	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (HOMES & COMMUNITIES)

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

Countywide

Purpose

To provide an update on the main activities of the Community Protection Team for the period June to August 2011.

Summary of Key Activities

1. Fly-tipping

The team investigated 187 fly-tips in this period as compared to 205 in the same period last year. Year to date there is a 12.4% reduction in reported incidents.

86 Duty of Care inspections were carried out during this period, designed to ensure that producers of commercial waste have appropriate arrangements in place for its correct disposal.

Two Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for failing to produce waste transfer notes.

2. Litter

The team dealt with 97 litter related incidents/reports as compared to 174 in the same period last year. This represents a year to date reduction of 44% in reported incidents. This is hopefully a positive reflection on the environmental impact the team is having through the various campaigns it had led over the last 12 months.

Ten Fixed Penalty Notices were issued during this period for litter offences.

3. Fly-posting

17 incidents of fly-posting were dealt with resulting in advice being given and the removal

of the 'offending' poster(s) where appropriate.

4. Abandoned vehicles

A total of 33 reports were received about abandoned vehicles. 30 of these were resolved without the need for formal action. Three vehicles were removed using statutory powers.

5. Dog Control

116 stray dogs were seized during this period. 65 of these (56%) were returned to their owner upon payment of costs. One dog was destroyed and the remainder re-homed.

6. Intelligence-led patrols

The team carried out 137 intelligence-led patrols around littering and dog-fouling issues specifically.

7. Initiatives

During July and August BBC Hereford & Worcester ran a series of broadcasts on the issue of fly-tipping, with their reporter shadowing one of the Community Protection Team officers through an investigation. This acted as a pre-cursor to a month long initiative launched on 3rd September aimed at educating householders about their duty of care responsibilities with regards to household waste.

8. Cautions/Prosecutions

During this period 4 people received formal cautions for fly-tipping.

One defendant, Gregory Mark EVERALL, was prosecuted on 25th August for an aggravated littering offence. Over a two year period he had habitually driven to a remote spot at Gibraltar Quarry, Orleton, where he had drunk up to 8 cans of beer a time and deposited the empty cans in the same location. This had resulted in an accumulation of literally hundreds of cans. Following an operation by the Community Protection Team, supported by the Police, EVERALL was witnessed committing the offence. The Police prosecuted for driving with excess alcohol. For the littering offence he was given a conditional discharge for 12 months (mitigation around personal circumstances influenced this), but costs of £1,291.00 were awarded.

On 26th August two defendants, Craig PRITCHARD and Shaun BRUTON, were convicted in their absence for littering offences (throwing down cigarette butts) witnessed by Community Protection Team Officers who had a little earlier spoken with them and given them 'stubbies' (portable ashtrays) as a part of a campaign. Each was fined £150.00 plus £100.00 costs.