

MEETING:	REGULATORY COMMITTEE
DATE:	5 JULY 2011
TITLE OF REPORT:	UPDATE ON ACTIVITY OF COMMUNITY PROTECTION TEAM
PORTFOLIO:	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT & COMMUNITY SERVICES)

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

Countywide

Purpose

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

Summary of Key Activities

1. Fly-tipping

The team investigated 123 fly-tips in this period. A number of these have resulted in suspects being identified and are subject to ongoing enquiries. The number of reported fly-tips represents a general downward trend which is encouraging.

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

Three evidential files involving a total of five defendants have been submitted. It is anticipated that one defendant will be prosecuted in respect of a fly-tip at Wellington, Hereford, and four defendants will be cautioned. The outcome of the prosecution will be reported to the next meeting.

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

2. Litter

The team dealt with 69 litter related incidents.

Two defendants appeared at court during this period. Both had been issued Fixed Penalty Notices for littering and had failed to pay them. On 8th April Danny PRICE was convicted in his absence and fined £100 with £50 costs. On 20th May Hannah GOULD

was convicted and given Conditional Discharge.

8 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for dropping and leaving litter. One person received written advice for littering from a vehicle, and one file recommending a prosecution for an aggravated littering offence over a number of years was submitted. The outcome of the prosecution will be reported to the next meeting.

The 'No Butts – It's Litter' campaign was run in partnership with Amey and Safer Herefordshire between 30th March and 6th May. This was aimed at educating people as to the appropriate disposal of cigarette butts, one of the most difficult and costly forms of litter to clear. Events were held in Hereford and each of the market towns with over 700 people engaged with and given a 'stubbie' (portable ashtray). The event gained very positive media coverage and Safer Herefordshire is sharing our good practice with at least with at least one other authority who contacted them after hearing of the campaign.

3. Fly-posting

11 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 20 reports were received about abandoned vehicles. 19 of these were resolved without the need for formal action. One vehicle was seized and subsequently returned to the owner after appropriate costs were paid.

5. Dog Control

91 stray dogs were seized during this period with almost three-quarters being returned to their owner upon payment of costs.

2 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued in respect of dog fouling offences.

A 'responsible dog owner' course run by the Dog Wardens concluded in Leominster on 10th June, with courses starting in Ross on 15th June and in Hereford and 16th June. These courses, initiated last year and very popular, aim to impact in a positive way on the number of stray dogs and dog control in general.

6. Intelligence-led patrols

The team carried out 215 intelligence-led patrols around littering and dog-fouling issues specifically.