

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
THURSDAY 6 DECEMBER 2018

APPROACH TO FLYTIPPING AT BRING SITES

REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER

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I. PURPOSE

To update the Committee on the options for tackling fly tipping at bring sites.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes the actions to tackle fly tipping at bring sites set out in the report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. Fly tipping is the illegal dumping of waste. The size can vary from one bag of rubbish, to a mattress or large quantity of builder's rubble.
- 3.2. Bring sites are areas in car parks and on streets, at which local authorities or third parties provide containers for the public to dispose of the recycling material. Presently there are over 20 bring sites across the District which are managed by the Council.
- 3.3. Many local authorities experience problems at bring sites including fly-tipping, vandalism, illegal deposit of trade waste and the presence of unauthorised or 'rogue' banks.
- 3.4. Fly-tipping is a common problem at bring sites, leaving sites looking untidy, which can reduce their usage and increase complaints. In many cases, it is due to misuse or a misunderstanding of how to use the site rather than deliberate:
 - If the material which is accepted at the site is left outside the containers, this may indicate that either the containers were full, the resident thought they were full or that the resident was physically unable to lift the material and place this in the container
 - Another possible reason for material being left outside a container is that the aperture size is smaller than the item. For instance, it may be difficult for cardboard which is not flattened, to be easily deposited in the appropriate container
 - If the location of the site is some distance from Dix Pit Household Waste Recycling Centre, this may be another reason for fly-tipping of large items
 - A resident may believe that they are presenting items correctly which are recyclable but are not collected for recycling at the site e.g. a washing machine
- 3.5. Whilst we would seek to stop fly tipping altogether fly tipping at bring sites is contained and is cheaper and easier to remove than fly tipping in ad-hoc rural locations where it may also have a greater impact on the environment and wildlife.

4. CCTV AS A POTENTIAL SOLUTION

- 4.1. CCTV is an effective tool in prosecuting against fly tipping as it provides evidence which can result in prosecutions. However it is both costly in terms of equipment and the human resources required to deliver this.

- 4.2. In order to achieve a successful prosecution a clear picture of the offender in the act of committing the offence is required. In most situations this will require a camera shot of the entire incident i.e. the vehicle pulling up, the offender unloading the items and then driving away from the scene. A camera positioned to make a recording like this is unlikely to be able to capture the licence plate as well to help in the identification of the individual involved, therefore two or three time-synced cameras may be required. A single camera, hardware and battery for the equipment to operate are costly and prices can range from £2,500 – £5,000. As illustrated above in order to achieve a successful prosecution multiple cameras would be required. So costs are likely to be a minimum of £5,000 per site but could be as much as £15,000 per site, with additional costs for periodic replacement of batteries and equipment.
- 4.3. In addition to the equipment costs there is a larger personnel cost to undertake the following:
 - set up the cameras
 - charge and change the hardware and batteries
 - download and view all the footage to identify the time and footage in which the fly tip occurred
 - prepare the evidence
 - interview the suspect
 - issue a Fixed Penalty Notice
- 4.4. There is currently no capacity within ERS to undertake these additional functions, so additional revenue funding would be required to increase the staff resources, which is not budgeted for.
- 4.5. Cherwell District Council introduced CCTV in August this year to try and tackle fly tipping. This Council will seek feedback from CDC on their costs and successful enforcement action so that the costs and benefits can be carefully considered. If CDC see a significant reduction in fly tipping offences, WODC may wish to consider resourcing this option.

5. OTHER POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

- 5.1. Effective communications through signage to educate residents about the correct use of bring sites to increase the quantity and quality of materials collected and reduce fly tipping and the presentation of unwanted items in the containers.
- 5.2. Develop a campaign 'brand' and associated communications to prevent fly tipping at bring sites and encourage reporting for householders, landowners and businesses Raising awareness to residents as swapping to larger household recycling bins (50% additional litreage to the standard size) so that they have a route to present their excess recycling material.
- 5.3. Review signage at the bring sites to ensure that it is an appropriate size and clear design and warns that cameras may be in operation and fly tipping waste is an offence.
- 5.4. Rapid clearance of the bring sites after a fly tip – this has improved significantly since Ubico took on the contract, however there can be delays whilst a fly tipped is investigated.
- 5.5. Publicising successful enforcement action.

6. CONCLUSION

The installation of CCTV cameras at bring sites is not seen as providing efficient, value for money services. Significant extra resources would be required for an unknown benefit. The costs and benefits experienced by Cherwell District Council will be reviewed once their CCTV initiative has been running for at least six months. In the meantime a focus on information and education should achieve some reduction in fly tipping at bring sites. The Council will not invest capital and revenue resources in CCTV at bring sites at this time.

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Date: 20 November 2018

Background Papers:

None