

Analysis of Fly-tipping figures for the years as requested by Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 30th July 2008

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Members have asked for an explanation for the increase in the number of public reports of fly-tips for the year 2006/07 and for a breakdown of the types of items classed as fly-tipping, the types of land and the locations in Redditch where fly-tipping most commonly occurs.
- 1.2 Officers have identified that the instances of fly-tipping in the town are comparatively high and that more work needs to be done to examine the issues underlying this – i.e. the ‘what, why and where’ of fly-tipping.
- 1.3 Some limited analytical work has been done and more is planned as part of the action carried forward into the next service plan for the forthcoming year. The information that has been prepared to date is included in this report.
- 1.4 The Council is obliged to complete a monthly return to the national ‘Flycapture’ database and this records information on the nature and location of fly-tips, which gives us a start as to understanding more about fly-tipping in the town.
- 1.5 An overview of Flycapture and the information it records, is included for Members’ information in section 2 below.

2.0 Overview of Flycapture

- 2.1 Flycapture is a web based fly-tipping database managed on behalf of DEFRA by the Environment Agency. It has been operational since April 2004 and all authorities are required to submit monthly returns into the database, recording details of all fly-tips dealt with and enforcement actions taken to tackle fly-tipping. As well as a database it aims to be a strategic tool to help authorities to improve intelligence on fly-tipping and focus resources on fly-tip hot spots.
- 2.2 Flycapture is split into two screens. Screen one is for the recording of the number of incidents of fly-tipping dealt with and other details and screen two records details relating to actions taken. The total number of incidents and actions then have to be broken down against each of the headings as shown in the tables in appendix 1.
- 2.7 Detailed guidance is provided to authorities in completing these sections, including how to define a fly-tip and its size and what the different land categories and fly-tip types include.

3.0 Items which are classed as ‘fly-tipping’

- 3.1 Fly-tipping varies in size from a single mattress or black bin bag to large-scale truck loads of construction, demolition and excavation waste. Some illegal dumps, whilst small in size, can be serious particularly if hazardous waste is involved. Flycapture states that waste should be counted as a fly-tip *“if the fly-tip waste is too large to be removed by a normal hand sweeping barrow. In simple terms, a single full bin bag upwards would constitute a fly-tip. Similarly several carrier bags full of rubbish dumped together would also constitute a single fly-tip.”*

3.2 There is evidence nationally that a lot of fly-tipping is organised by professional criminals who can gain significant financial rewards. However, in Redditch there are few fly-tips of this nature (see section 5 below).

3.3 The following are real examples of items which have been reported as fly-tips in Redditch in the last year:

“Planks of wood, carpets, general rubbish”/ “Metal safety fencing”/ “Exhaust pipe, cartons, cake boxes”/ “Two mattresses, settee & armchair”/ “Dishwasher”/ “Rubbish and soil”/ “Roofing felt from garage roof”/ “Large amount of bread in bags”

4.0 Fly-tipping figures for 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08

4.1 The following table compares the number of fly-tips reported by the public and reported to Flycapture for the last 3 years.

	No. public reports	Total no. reports (Flycapture)
2005/06	1017	1527
2006/07	943	1611
2007/08	1325*	1270

4.2 *The number of public reports for 2007/08 is higher than the total reported on Flycapture as the ‘public reports’ figure includes some duplicates and fly-tips relating to other service areas (such as housing); if these are removed the figure is 1157; however, the number of public reports is still higher than the previous year. As part of the work on fly-tipping we will be examining the detail behind the figures and what is classed as a ‘public report’.

4.3 The total no. reports includes all fly-tips dealt with, including public reports as well as reports by cleansing crews and inspectors but should exclude reports of fly-tipping in private areas such as bin stores or communal areas in flats.

4.4 Despite an increase in the number of public reports of fly-tipping in 2007/08, the overall number has decreased year on year.

4.5 The new waste collection service began in October 2006 to March 2007. Experience in other service areas has found that raising the profile of a service, such as through the introduction of the AWC service, results in an increased number of public contacts in relation to that service; this may be a reason why the number of public reports has increased during 2007/08.

5.0 Information from Flycapture

5.1 Whilst the information recorded on Flycapture gives a good guideline as to the types of land, size and fly-tip that are occurring, there can be some discrepancy in the recording of information, such as deciding on the land type category. Further analysis, possibly on a case by case basis, is needed for more reliable data on the location and nature of fly-tips.

5.2 The following table shows the three land types where fly-tips have most commonly occurred in Redditch over the last three years (2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08):

Land type	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	Total
Council land	1005	1001	992	2998
Footpath/bridleway	278	326	79	683
Other (unidentified)	90	109	46	245
Total				3926
Total fly-tips	1527	1611	1270	
Total no. for 3 years	4408			

5.3 The following table shows the three types of fly-tip which have most commonly occurred in Redditch over the last three years (2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08):

Waste type	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	Total
Other household waste	661	880	542	2083
Black bags household	283	281	301	865
Construction/demolition/excavation	177	100	68	345
Total				3293
Total no. fly-tips for year	1527	1611	1270	
Total no. for 3 years	4408			

5.4 The following table shows the three most common sizes of fly-tip in Redditch over the last 3 years (2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08):

Size	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	Total
Car boot load or less	503	743	497	1743
Small van load	509	486	365	1360
Single item	293	232	245	770
Total				3873
Total no. fly-tips for year	1527	1611	1270	
Total no. for 3 years	4408			

5.5 The Flycapture information shows that:

- **89%** of fly-tips were on Council land, footpath/bridleways or 'other' land.
- **75%** of fly-tips were of other household waste, household black bags or construction/demolition waste;
- **88%** of fly-tips were a car boot load or less, small van load or a single item.

5.6 The Flycapture information does not tell us the areas of the town where fly-tipping occurs but an indication is given in the table in section 6.

6.0 Analysis of fly-tipping for the period July, August and September 2007

6.1 We were interested to see the relationship between fly-tips and waste collection day/household waste and we found the following:

- 470 fly-tips were reported in total
- 102 were on same day as waste collection
- 53 were sacks only
- 46 were mixed waste – i.e sacks and other items
- 27 were sacks and on bin day

6.2 Whilst sacks of household waste are contributing to the number of fly-tips reported, the biggest problem in Redditch appears to be ‘bulky’ items of household waste. More analysis of this type is planned.

6.3 The following table shows fly-tips for this period by area:

Central	North	South	South west	East
75	110	86	38	161

7.0 **National Indicator 196 (BVPI 199d) and Enforcement action**

7.1 Each authority’s performance on this indicator is monitored by DEFRA through the Flycapture database.

7.2 The new indicator N1 196 continues to monitor performance according to the following criteria set out in the following matrix:

		Number of Enforcement Action		
		Increasing actions	Same level of actions	Decreasing actions
Number of Incidents of Fly-Tipping	Decrease	Grading 1- Very Effective	Grading 2- Effective	Grading 2 - Effective
	Same	Grading 3 - Not Effective	Grading 4- Poor	Grading 4 - Poor
	Increase	Grading 3 - Not Effective	Grading 4 - Poor	Grading 4 - Poor

7.3 Enforcement action to tackle fly-tipping, littering and dog fouling continues to play an important part in our efforts to maintain a good quality local environment and the number of enforcement actions taken in Redditch is high compared to other Worcestershire authorities. A staged approach is taken as below and action is taken as appropriate at the discretion of the officer:

- Stage 1 Advice given
- Stage 2 Verbal caution
- Stage 3 Written caution
- Stage 4 Fixed Penalty Notice
- Stage 5 Court Proceedings

7.4 Last year, Redditch Borough Council achieved a level two or ‘effective’ grade on BVPI 199d and carried out 902 enforcement actions in relation to fly-tips including:

- Investigation 551
- Warning letter 14
- Statutory notice 99
- Fixed penalty notice 26
- Duty of care inspection 3
- Stop and search 0

- Formal caution 205
- Prosecution 3
- Injunction 0

8.0 Conclusions and future approach

- 8.1 In Redditch, the most common kind of fly-tip are small amounts of household waste. Further work will be done to identify the specific areas where fly-tipping is most frequent but the initial analysis (6.3) shows that highest levels are in the North and East areas.
- 8.2 DEFRA states that there are many reasons why fly-tipping occurs. In some cases it is just ignorance and a lack of awareness of the responsibilities of proper waste disposal.
- 8.3 The 'Worth It' adverts which ran in the local paper in 2006 has been reviewed with a view to run them again during the autumn/winter period this year.
- 8.4 It is a service plan priority to carry out more analysis over the next year and undertake more general and targeted publicity and appropriate enforcement action. Customers have to know what level of service to expect from us. For example they have to know:
- What they are supposed to do with their waste, how they can get rid of things
 - That they are not supposed to put waste out by the side of the bin
 - What counts as fly-tipping
 - What the Council will do when fly-tipping is found/reported
- 8.5 Members' views are welcomed on the information given and the approach to fly-tipping and further information and updates can be brought back to Members as the work progresses.

Attached:

1. Appendix 1 – information captured in Flycapture database

Appendix 1 – Information collected in ‘flycapture’

Table 1 - Information recorded in Screen One (incidents):

Total incidents by land type:	Total incidents by waste type:	Total incidents by size:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highway • Footpath/bridleway • Back alleyway • Railway • Council land • Agricultural • Private – residential • Commercial/industrial • Watercourse/bank • Other (unidentified) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal carcass • Green • Vehicle parts • White goods • Other electrical • Tyres • Asbestos • Clinical • Construction/demolition/excavation • Black bags commercial • Black bags household • Chemical drums oil or fuel • Other household waste • Other commercial waste • Other (unidentified) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single item • Single black bag • Car boot load or less • Small van load • Transit van load • Tipper lorry load • Significant multiple loads <p>Standard costs are built into the database for each of these sizes and this calculates the cost of dealing with fly-tipping that month.</p>

Table 2 - Information recorded in Screen Two (actions):

Total number of actions completed:	Total number of prosecution outcomes:	Total number of fines:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigation • Warning letter • Statutory notice • Fixed penalty notice • Duty of care inspection • Stop and search • Formal caution • Prosecution • Injunction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absolute conditional discharge • Community service • Fine • Custodial sentence • Paid fixed penalty notice • Cases lost • Other successful 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £0 to £50 • £51 to £200 • £201 to £500 • £501 to £1,000 • £1,001 to £5,000 • £5,001 to £20,000 • £20,001 to £50,000 • over £50,000