

Warwickshire Waste Partnership

6 December 2017

Sub-Regional Fly-Tipping Group

Recommendation

The Waste Partnership is asked to note the contents of this report and to identify any areas which the Sub-Regional Fly-Tipping Group should focus on as part of their future work programme.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the work of a sub-regional group established to try to tackle the issue of fly-tipping as it affects both local authorities and also land owners (in particular farmers) and the wider rural community.
- 1.2 Two meetings have been held to date and a series of actions agreed to try to make progress on what is a serious issue for the rural communities of Warwickshire and the wider sub-region.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Fly-tipping is a national issue and one which impacts especially heavily on rural areas. Local authorities spend significant time and resources tackling fly-tipping through site clearance operations, CCTV monitoring, investigation and, where possible, the prosecution of offenders. The focus by local authorities is, understandably, on tackling the issue of fly-tipping on public land. However, it is estimated that up to half of all fly-tips take place on private land, often farm land. Local authorities often do not have the powers, nor the resources, to address fly-tipping away from the highway.
- 2.2 In order to try and ensure that sufficient attention is paid to the issue of rural fly-tipping, the National Farmers Union (NFU) has been working to try to combat rural crime in general and fly-tipping in particular. Luke Ryder, the NFU County Adviser for Warwickshire & Worcestershire has established a sub-regional group to look at ways to tackle fly-tipping in a more coordinated and joined up way by bringing a number of stakeholder organisations together to share information and best practise and to agree ways in which fly-tipping can be tackled more effectively in the future.

3.0 Sub- Regional Fly-Tipping Group

- 3.1 The group is made up of officers from the Warwickshire Borough and District Councils and also from Coventry City Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council. In addition there is representation from the Police, Warwickshire Fire & Rescue and the Environment Agency. The Group is chaired by Luke Ryder from the NFU. At the last meeting held on 6th October, 2017 the group was also joined by Craig Tracey MP and Dame Caroline Spelman MP.
- 3.2 The group held a wide ranging discussion on the issue of fly-tipping and the specific challenges facing rural areas and local landowners. Information was shared around promotion, enforcement, prosecution and data gathering. The increasing use of ANPR was discussed as well as the potential for joint enforcement operations. The group agreed the following actions:
- Dame Caroline Spelman MP and Craig Tracey MP agreed to raise the matter in Parliament and to look at the issue of fines and penalties associated with fly-tipping enforcement, including the potential use of fixed penalty notices for householder duty of care offences.
 - Local Authorities agreed to share information where possible and to work in partnership and across boundaries where practicable.
 - It was agreed that more data needs to be captured around fly-tipping on private land with local authorities ideally being the first point of contact and the collators of information.
 - The EA are currently revising their fly-tipping protocol – it was agreed that local authorities should be involved in that process.
 - Local Authorities agreed to look at the issue of investigating fly-tipping on private land where there is the potential for evidence to have been left at the scene.
 - The NFU to investigate how fly-tipping affects wildlife through the local Wildlife Trusts.
 - NFU to submit a bid for funding to support promotion and surveillance to the Litter Innovation Fund.

4.0 Litter Innovation Fund

- 4.1 The local branch of the NFU has submitted an Expression of Interest to WRAP's Litter Innovation Fund. The expression of interest is centred around promotion, education and awareness raising of the issue of rural fly-tipping with the hope that the problem can be reduced if the issues are highlighted and the public made aware of the impact of fly-tipping on rural communities and what they can do to help tackle the problem. In addition, if successful the funding would be used to prevent fly-tipping through the deployment of signage and CCTV in areas regularly targeted by fly-tippers.
- 4.2 Up to £50,000 is available from a national fund of £450,000. The application round closes on Friday 1st December, 2017.

Supporting Documents

- 5.1 The NFU's report "Combatting Rural Crime" can be viewed on their website at: <https://www.nfuonline.com/assets/97937>

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