

# ***Report to the Council***

**Committee:** Cabinet

**Date:** 1 November 2018

**Subject:** Environment

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor N. Avey

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## **Recommending:**

**That the report of the Environment Portfolio Holder be noted.**

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## **Environment & Neighbourhoods (EN)**

### **Fly-tipping**

The Environment & Neighbourhoods team have been promoting the message for some time now that it is a "Crime not to Care" if residents and businesses hand waste over to a rogue trader, if they have failed to carry out some simple checks, consider the potential implications and record who took their waste away.

This message has recently been re-enforced by the Magistrates Court after a negligent act led to fly-tipping, resulting in costs and fines amounting to £1560 being imposed on a resident.

On 13 September 2018 in Chelmsford Magistrates Court, the resident of Loughton admitted to failing his household waste duty of care. Mr Tjoluskins admitted that he handed over some large cardboard boxes which were found fly tipped amongst a larger pile of waste. Mr Tjoluskins' failure to consider the implications of giving his waste to somebody without checking that the person taking the waste was authorised by the Environment Agency. Not checking or recording their details was a costly mistake. The waste was found fly tipped in Oakley Court, Loughton by a bin store provided for local residents.

The Magistrates stated that it was a negligent act. Mr Tjoluskins was ordered to pay a fine of £600. He was also ordered to pay the Council's prosecution costs of £900 together with a Victim Surcharge £60. The Magistrates stated that had he not pleaded guilty the fine would have been £900.

Further guidance on the action residents should take to protect themselves from rogue traders who fly-tip for profit is available on the Council's Website. [Click here](#) for more information [Crime Not to Care](#). A series of short films produced by the Cleaner Essex Group (CEG), a campaign group made up from representatives from local authorities across Essex, are also available to view on this web page.

The message is simple:

**Before handing your waste to somebody else, always check, consider and record to protect yourself and reduce fly-tipping by rogue traders.**

Please pass on this message to friends, family and any business associates.

As part of a renewed campaign across Essex, Environment & Neighbourhood Officers have been out on the search for waste ready to be collected in Waltham Abbey, Loughton, Chigwell,

Buckhurst Hill and Epping. Officers spoke to a selection of residents and business, to ensure that they were aware of their duty of care.

The officers also found a number of new fly-tips across the district, which are now being investigated. Pictures of these fly-tips are due to be released on social media, asking the question – Could this waste be yours?

In a related case on 11 October 2018, an alleged household duty of care offender failed to attend Chelmsford Magistrates Court. A warrant was issued for the alleged offender's arrest.

### **Noise nuisance**

A resident in Waltham Abbey, Ms Lawn failed to attend a court hearing on 11 October 2018 for breaching a noise abatement notice on a number of occasions, due to playing loud music. The case was taken forward in her absence. Ms Lawn of Brickenden Court was found guilty of five offences. She was fined £180 and costs of £180 were awarded to the Council. Since the legal proceedings were commenced earlier in the year, the noise has now ceased. The noise abatement notice remains in force should there be a recurrence of the problem

Environment & Neighbourhood Officers provide a call out service for noise complaints made outside normal office hours. Telephone 01992 564000. More information is available at:

<http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/index.php/residents/your-environment/crime-safety/environment-and-neighbourhoods-team/out-of-hours-noise-service>

### **Taxi licensing enforcement**

Environment & Neighbourhood Officers carry out regular late night patrols to inspect and deter illegal taxis operating in the district.

On 25 March 2018, officers inspected a taxi operating outside Buckhurst Hill station. It was established that the licence for the taxi was out of date and therefore unlicensed. The taxi driver, Mr Ahmed, pleaded guilty to the offence on 11 October 2018 in Chelmsford Magistrates Court.

He was fined £346 with costs of £300 to be paid to the Council. The Magistrates stated that Mr Ahmed was an experienced driver and the period when he was licensed to drive the hackney carriage could have resulted in a catastrophe for those who hired his vehicle, as he would not have been insured.

### **Hazardous fly tipping**

At the last meeting I informed Members about efforts were being made to speed up removal of hazardous waste which has arisen due to contractual difficulties between ECC and their contractors. I am pleased to report that our contractor Biffa has taken over the removal of small scale waste, this includes chemical, hazardous and asbestos waste. This has resulted in a speedier response as well financial savings to the Essex tax payer.

### **Recycling banks**

I can inform Members that the review of Recycling Banks has now been completed by Biffa. Officers are currently reviewing the outcomes of this review as well as relative performance of each site. I shall report back on proposals for any changes to recycling sites.

As I have reported previously we will use this opportunity to improve and enhance the banks we decide to retain by redesigning their layout and replacing old containers. New containers will enable us to empty these sites using existing Biffa refuse freighters and not requiring specialist sub-contractors. This will improve performance.

### **DCLG Recycling Rewards project**

Members will be aware that the Council obtained government grant funding for Recycling Rewards project to improve recycling collections from block of flats. This project included funding for prizes for charities voted for by residents. Prizes for the first year of the scheme have been presented to the following charities:

Epping Forest Community Transport  
Chigwell Riding trust  
Epping Forest Food Bank  
Safer Places