

Communicating with neighbouring residents and businesses – Network Rail, Bloxwich

Parts of the area are hotspots for over the fence dumping. Network Rail works in partnership with the local authority, the police, and British Transport Police to resolve this issue. Joint letters from Network Rail and the local authority were sent out to all residents within 250 metres of the site. These letters highlighted the legal implications of fly-tipping and the problems it causes, and informed residents of legitimate waste disposal options and civic amenity sites in the locality.

The press have been involved and articles have featured in the local newspaper. Network Rail undertook recovery operations on the site. This included clearing the tipping, erecting new fencing and 'caging' the bridges. British Transport Police has been involved by carrying out surveillance for antisocial behaviour. CCTV has been installed but is very limited due to the close proximity of private residences and human rights legislation.

It is too early to draw conclusions as to the degree of success that has been achieved and there have been no prosecutions as yet (although there have been in other areas). One aspect of the initiative that has been very effective, however, is the success of the partnership itself – it is clear that partnership working is the way forward in tackling fly-tipping. What is unclear is whether this level of partnership working is possible in the long term as resources and interest can change within organisations, and some of the work has relied on specially diverted resources, such as British Transport Police patrols, that cannot be sustained in the long term.