

A. Operation Fly Swat

Partners: Boston Borough Council, Her Majesty's Prison (HMP) North Sea Camp, Black Sluice and Witham Fourth Internal Drainage Boards, Environment Agency, Lincolnshire County Council, South Holland District Council, Welland & Deeping Drainage Board, South Holland Drainage Board, Boston Mayflower and Longhurst Group (social housing providers). East Lindsey District Council has also attended partnership meetings with a view to joining the project and discussions are under way to expand the operation further.

How did it come about?

Operation Fly Swat was the brainchild of one of the Black Sluice Drainage Board Area Managers and took 6 months to set up from conception to operation. Boston Borough Council acts as project lead and has co-ordinated the project since October 2011.

What is it?

A partnership set up to tackle fly-tipping (clean-up, investigate, deter/educate against fly-tipping) and help rehabilitate offenders.

- HMP North Sea Camp has had offenders on placement at Boston Borough Council's waste depot since 2009 – building on the success of this it was agreed to involve prisoners to join the Council's Fly Swat team (following selection & training). Prisoners have benefitted by developing the routine of work, providing work experience, making a constructive input into a local project and providing the opportunity to gain vocational qualifications. It is hoped involvement in the project will help to reduce re-offending rates;
- The prisoner volunteers do not replace paid workers – their input is additional to the efforts already put in by other partner agencies;
- The partnership helps place cameras and motion detectors in fly-tipping hotspots to provide evidence to catch offenders;
- Boston BC promotes the waste Duty of Care on its website and warns householders and businesses that they could be prosecuted if they give their waste to a non-authorised person and that waste is subsequently fly-tipped. Plans made for promotional work direct to the public publicising anti-fly-tipping messages; and

- Successful prosecutions are publicised.

Funding

The operation is funded by partner organisations and costs approximately £23k per annum, split between the partners. HMP North Sea Camp does not contribute to the funding but does provide personnel.

Successes (to October 2013)

- The project has funded a clean-up vehicle operated by volunteers from HMP North Sea Camp;
- Approx 320 tonnes of rubbish cleared from hundreds of sites leading to cleaner river banks, verges, ditches and housing estates in Boston borough and surrounding areas;
- A large proportion of the collected waste has been recycled;
- Publicity in local press demonstrating to residents the proactive approach being taken to deal with fly-tipping; providing the opportunity to raise awareness of the waste Duty of Care and publicise the penalties for those breaching it or those caught fly-tipping; and
- Assisting with the rehabilitation of prisoners.

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