

Householders' Fly-tipping

Coventry City Council

The 'Don't Dump It' project enables Neighbourhood Wardens to report fly-tipping instantly. This has reduced the amount of time fly tipping was left on the street, and reduced the level of 'copycat' fly tipping. The wardens work with the public, and other organisations, to clean up areas that could be potentially dangerous to the community. A mobile working project, where wardens can post advisory cards where they find waste in gardens, has also been created. If the cards are not acted upon a referral is made to the Environmental Crime Unit and a legal notice is issued to make the land owner remove the waste. Since April this year, 145 notices have been served with three prosecutions, resulting in £600 in fines, and £1,545 in costs.

Coventry City Council takes a strong line against fly-tipping and continues its policy to prosecute offenders whenever possible. Since April 2007, there have been 11 successful prosecutions in court for fly-tipping, with fines totalling £3,345 and £2,813 in costs. A formal caution was also issued for a fly-tipping offence, along with a successful prosecution for two trade waste offences.

Work to target waste in gardens has also been successful. Last year 448 notices were served (an increase of 53 compared to the previous period) with 11 prosecutions. Fines totalled £2,500 and with £4,144 awarded in costs. Since April 2007 'duty of care' leaflets have been delivered to 515 businesses. 78 have had received follow-up visits, of which 49 were satisfactory, 20 produced small amounts of waste (and have been advised to obtain commercial bin bags) and nine businesses were targeted for formal action.

Whitefriars Housing Group (WHG) takes an active part in the 'impact' days with other agencies such as Coventry City Council, police, fire service, and community groups. WHG was responsible for the removal of graffiti and bulk waste from Willenhall (twice) and Hillfields. They also spent over £50,000 from an environmental improvement budget on projects across the city such as the renovation of old play areas, removing and replanting hedges, also replanting shrub beds and turfing areas to reduce antisocial behaviour.

For further information, please contact:

Joy Adams, Principal Environmental Health Officer, Environmental Crime Unit

T: 02476831806

E: joy.adams@coventry.gov.uk