

E. Swindon Community Waste Partnership

Partners:

The Swindon Community Waste Partnership is led by Swindon Borough Council and comprises of several departments within the Council, Councillors, Swindon Commercial Services, Wiltshire Police, Forward Swindon and the Broad Green Community Group.

What is it?

The Community Waste Partnership brings together the expertise and intelligence of the separate organisations to combat the problem of fly-tipping based on the three principles of:

- 1) Engagement - of the community, providing education and encouragement to prevent fly-tipping
- 2) Enforcement - encouraging the reporting and ensuring the investigation of fly-tipping
- 3) Clearance - of litter and fly-tipped waste

The project concentrates on the Broad Green area of Swindon, which is historically a popular area for fly-tipping with a collection of terraced houses backing onto unadopted alleyways. The project aims to reduce fly-tipping and waste in the area using the three principles of the Community problem.

Funding:

The Swindon Community Waste Partnership successfully bid for a DEFRA funding grant of £27,857 and has used the money to pilot the project in a small area of Swindon with a view to expanding the principles to other areas within the town.

Action being taken:

- Sharing intelligence of fly-tipping hotspots and possible offenders between the partners.
- Carrying out a survey to understand the causes of fly-tipping and the attitudes of residents and businesses in the project area.

- The organisation and execution of 'Tidy-Up' days, including the provision of equipment, skip hire and publicity to all residents and businesses. Also highlighting information about regular waste collections and recycling centres.
- Delivering the message to Primary Schools in the area, including the evolution of junior wardens and a 'green space' area to encourage children to look after their environment and tell parents about the waste problems.
- Providing business engagement through a survey and a Community Waste Partnership window sticker distributed to all businesses within the area. Producing the National Fly-Tipping Prevention Group guide for all businesses in the area, stimulating discussions on waste with the businesses and identifying action points.
- Houses of Multiple Occupancy identified and landlord details obtained. Creation of a "tenants welcome pack" outlining the correct way to dispose of waste and recycling, collection and bulk waste details and translated into the most common languages
- Scoping of area and CCTV fitted or updated in alleyways and enforcement patrols.
- Litter Fixed Penalty Notice blitz in the area for a specific period. Those caught littering offered a "litter education course" as an alternative to the fine. This is followed up by regular patrols issuing Fixed Penalty Notices to those dropping litter.
- The creation of a Community Garden where a piece of disused waste ground (a fly-tipping hotspot) was identified and adopted by the local community to plant flowers and grass.
- A general 'tidy up' of the area creating a pride in the community, including a free graffiti cleaning service, ensuring all trade waste is stored lawfully, removing or replacing all unlawful shop canopies and extensions.

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