

Reducing Fly-tipping

Milton Keynes Council

Milton Keynes has seen a 35% reduction in fly-tipping incidents in 2006-07 from 3,511 to 2,252. Staff numbers on the enforcement team have increased, Flycapture data has been used to identify hotspots and covert surveillance has been carried out at them, leading to prosecutions, penalty notices and cautions. Opening hours have also been extended at civic amenity sites.

Milton Keynes Council is one of the few local authorities that collect household waste and recycling every week from houses in the area. Many other local councils have opted to collect waste and recycling on alternate weeks. By using a simple pink and black bag collection method, rather than wheelie bins, residents can put out as many pink sacks containing recycling as they wish every week as well as there being no limit to the number of black bags containing everyday waste that can be placed out on collection day. In addition there are three community recycling centres where residents can take excess rubbish, DIY waste, grass cuttings etc free of charge.

The centres are open 7 days a week until 8pm during the summer months to make it even more convenient for customers with the majority of waste being recycled. Also the council, unlike the majority of councils in the country, still runs a free special collection for most bulky items upon request.

Council enforcement coordinator, Shaun Greig, said, "It is hard to understand, when it is so easy to dispose of rubbish responsibly, why people throw their unwanted property over their back fence, in a lay-by and in our parks and open spaces. It surely must take more effort to do that than just use one of the many free services we offer. That is why Milton Keynes Council will always take enforcement action against the few individuals that are unwilling to dispose of their rubbish responsibly."

A Milton Keynes landlord was convicted of fly-tipping and was ordered to pay nearly £2,000. Despite warnings about previous incidents from Enforcement Officers, he continued to place household and garden waste outside in public areas. This proved to be an expensive breach of the law and the landlord now has a criminal conviction to boot.

During a CCTV operation at local recycling banks, a woman was witnessed dumping bags of non-recyclable household waste next to the banks. She was prosecuted at Milton Keynes Magistrates Court and given a conditional discharge as well as having to pay hundreds of pounds in legal costs.

Another example of fly-tipping at recycling banks occurred in Emerson Valley. A man was captured on CCTV dumping household waste outside the bins and was ordered to pay fines and costs totalling £250.

Builders have fallen foul of Safer Communities Enforcement Officers as well. One man was ordered to pay more than £1,000 when he dumped a load of builder's waste in a country lane in Newport Pagnell. A building company was fined more than £3,000 when they were seen to dump a ton of tarmac on waste ground on the outskirts of Newport Pagnell.

A Stacey Bushes man was arrested when he failed to appear at Milton Keynes Magistrates Court having been summonsed to appear before them for dumping his old kitchen on his neighbour's driveway. As well as a morning in the cells, he was ordered to pay more than £700 in fines and costs.

Three Stantonbury residents received criminal records when caught dumping household, DIY and garden waste outside their properties. They had to pay a total of more than £1,200 in fines and costs.

A mother received a conditional discharge and was ordered to pay hundreds of pounds when she was witnessed helping her son dump bundles of undelivered newspapers in Greenleys.

A woman from Heelands kept putting her bin bags out on the highway days before her collection day despite several warnings. She failed to pay the Fixed Penalty Notice and the Safer Communities Unit took her to court where she had to pay more than £700.

A leisure centre manager was found guilty of allowing staff to repeatedly leave waste outside their skip, despite warnings given to him. He had to pay more than £900 in fines and costs.

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