



Alresford and District Neighbourhood Watch Association



FLY - TIPPING

As we all painfully know in the past 12 months we have had to live through a number of 'Lockdowns' and are currently in the throes of a further national lockdown. Unfortunately, one of the side effects of these restrictions has been an increase in fly-tipping.

The term 'fly-tipping' is derived from the verb tip, meaning "to throw out of a vehicle", and on the fly, meaning "on the wing" – to throw away carelessly or casually. Fly-tipping is defined as the 'illegal deposit of any waste onto land that does not have a licence to accept it'.

Tipping a mattress, electrical items or a bin bag full of rubbish in the street causes a local nuisance and makes an area look ugly and run down. At the larger end of the scale fly-tipping can involve several truckloads of construction and demolition waste being tipped on different types of land.

Uncontrolled illegal waste disposal can be hazardous to the public, especially if it contains toxic material or asbestos. There could be a risk of damage to watercourses and soil quality from the dumped waste.

In 2017/18, c. 998,000 incidences of fly-tipping were dealt with by councils in England whilst 2018/19 saw this increase to 1,072,000 incidences. The cost of clearing up this waste has risen to £60 million per year and this figure is likely to increase for 2019/20.

In 2018/19, 46% incidents occurred on our Highways whilst overall 33% of total incidents were categorised as 'small van loads' whilst 28% were 'car-boot loads' or less. Some people did not realise that dumping our garden waste in hedgerows, grass verges and woodlands counts as fly-tipping and it is illegal; just because it may eventually compost down, does not make dumping acceptable or permissible.

What are the Penalties for Fly-Tipping?

Fly-tipping is a criminal offence punishable by a fine of up to £50,000 or 12 months imprisonment if convicted in a Magistrates' Court, as well as an order to deprive rights to a vehicle used to commit the offence. The offence can attract an unlimited fine and up to 5 years imprisonment if convicted in a Crown Court.

What can we do?

If we see any fly-tipping we should:

1. Try to work out what the waste is and how much there is.
2. Note the day, date and time you saw the tipping.
3. Note the waste's exact location and whether it is in or near water.
4. Take a photograph and give this to the local council.

NB - If the fly tipped materials have been marked with a spray painted yellow 'W', the council are already aware of the incident, it is being investigated and the removal has been scheduled.

How can it be reported?

We can also report fly tipping using your iPhone, Android or Blackberry phone. You can use the Your Winchester app to report fly tipping wherever you are 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Using the app means the actual location of the fly tip is recorded on the mapping system and you will be able to upload pictures of the waste to help the council investigate and collect the materials.

What else can the general public do?

There have been instances where members of the public have paid for a waste carrier to remove rubbish or building materials from their property only to find it has been dumped elsewhere and they are then liable for the costs of clearing the mess up. The Environment Department have an online Register of Waste Carriers and if a someone states they have a licence to take waste, but could be lying, then a Neighbourhood Services Officer can be alerted to investigate. The local Council's Environmental Health Service is the first point of contact for complaints and the Winchester Contact Number is: **01962 840222**.

**Alresford and District Neighbourhood Watch
Association website-**

www.neighbourhood.watch.alresford.org

e-mail – contact.adnwa@gmail.com

**CRIME IN PROGRESS – 999
NON URGENT – 101
CRIMESTOPPERS – 0800 555 111**