

**24<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**Environment & Enforcement Committee**

**#CrimeNotToCare Campaign Update and Christmas Recycling Road Shows**

**Report of:** *Dawn Taylor – Business Support Services Manager*

**Wards Affected:** *All wards*

**This report is:** *Public*

**1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 This report is to notify Members of the forthcoming Recycling events planned for the December period. Officers will raise awareness of recycling by answering questions, providing advice and handing out rolls of recycling sacks and food waste bags to residents.
- 1.2 To update members on the Love Essex 2017 #CrimeNotToCare campaign which was launched on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September and run for six weeks. Brentwood Council held one of the Essex two launch events on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017, where Street Scene Operatives built a large fly tip using a third of items that they had collected that week from the Borough, as a visual example of the scale of fly tips. Staff from Street Scene and Environmental Health were joined by Keep Britain representatives and Councillors to talk to the public about fly tipping. The waste on display was a third of what had been collected from fly tips in the Borough that week and it was certainly a talking point with many passers-by stopping to take pictures and ask questions about it! The Leader of the Council did an interview with BBC Look East at the scene which was aired that evening. The press coverage for the launch week had been comprehensive so hopefully getting the message out to residents throughout Essex.
- 1.3 Environmental Health Officers undertook a Stop and Search activity with the Police within the campaign period in an operation to prevent fly tipping. Stops were made on vehicles that were or could be carrying waste and drivers were checked to make sure they had waste transfer information and a license to transport and dispose of commercial waste they carry. Two vehicles were found to be suspicious and will be followed up to ensure they are disposing of commercial waste correctly. Fixed penalty notices of up to £600 can be issued for contraventions of carrying or disposing of waste without a license or waste transfer notice. The officers will be out again on a regular basis doing the same operation. The Environmental Health

Officers have also shown police officers what to look for when they stop those who may be illegally transporting commercial waste. This includes waste generated from a business or from a business activity, such as debris that might be handled by a builder or the garden waste that a gardener may move. Officers are also in regular communication with the local police regarding looking out for vehicles of interest and fly tipping information sharing.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members to note and support the arrangements for the forthcoming Christmas Recycling Road Show events to be held during December 2017.**
- 2.2 Members to note details of the recent #CrimeNotToCare Campaign and local activities to help raise awareness regarding Duty of Care.**

## **3. Introduction and Background**

- 3.1 We have a few Christmas Recycling Road shows during December, where the team will be out and about to assist residents with advising what can be recycled or reused after the Christmas Festivities, for helpful recycling tips, advise on Christmas tree recycling and stock up on free recycling sacks and food waste bags for the extra recycling that the Christmas festivities bring. The events planned for December are detailed below: -

- Wednesday 6th December – Christmas Recycling Road Show at Ingatestone Library, Ingatestone High Street, Ingatestone between 9 – 11am
- Friday 8th December – Christmas Recycling Road Show at land adj to Chapel High Ruins, High Street, Brentwood between 11am – 1pm
- Tuesday 12th December – Christmas Recycling Road show at Brentwood Centre, (foyer), between 11am – 1pm
- Friday 15th December – Christmas Recycling Road Show at land adj to Chapel High ruins, High Street, Brentwood between 11am – 1pm
- Monday 18th December – Christmas Recycling Road show in Shenfield Library, Shenfield between - 10am and 12 noon.

- 3.2 The Cleaner Greener Group in the past few years has concentrated on Litter awareness campaign alongside partners such as Keep Britain Tidy, MacDonald's, Dominos, KFC, Essex County Council, Local Essex Authorities etc., however this year it was decided that the group would this year do a campaign to try and tackle fly tipping which is a growing problem in Essex.

In the past 12 months there have been 17,547 fly-tipping incidents in Essex, costing over £1million of taxpayer's money to clear up.

#CrimeNotToCare campaign aims to ensure that residents do the right thing with their rubbish and to reduce the amount of household waste that is fly-tipped by rogue traders who offer to take people's waste away for money and then dump it. Giving waste to a 'man with a van' who offers to get rid of it cheaply could end up proving costly for people and result in a criminal record.

The message included within the campaign literature is that "It's your waste, it's your responsibility". If your waste is found dumped, even if someone else has done it, you could be responsible for the crime. A flyer and details on the Council's websites advises residents how to protect themselves and to follow the below tips:

- If you use a trader to remove your waste ask to see their waste carrier permit issued by the Environment Agency
- Ensure that you receive a transfer notice or receipt before your waste is taken away
- Don't be afraid to ask questions and ask for paperwork that shows where your waste is going
- Make a note of who you have given your waste to, their waste carrier details and vehicle details
- You should never leave any waste as an old washing machine or scrap metal on your drive or in the street for someone to remove. They may not be a registered waste carrier, and could take the bits they need and dump the rest.
- If you have unwanted items, donate good quality items to local reuse organisations or charity shops. You should never leave items out for others to re-use as these could end up being dumped.

#### **4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options**

- 4.1 Through the personal approach of face to face engagement at road shows with residents it is possible to give more targeted information and receive useful feedback from residents, which other communication techniques such as leaflet drops cannot achieve on their own. It gives Officers an opportunity to ensure residents fully understand the Council's recycling and waste collections and services, and to address any barriers to recycling. It

is also an opportunity for residents to stock up on orange sacks and food waste bags to enable them to continue recycling especially important during December when residents are likely to have more recycling.

- 4.2 The Fly-tipping awareness campaign objective was to raise householder's awareness that everyone has a "Duty of Care" by law to ensure that only those with an authorised Environmental Agency permit can dispose of your unwanted waste, and that the owner of the waste could be fined up to £5,000 if they have not complied with the "Duty of Care" obligations.
- 4.3 By joining forces with the other Local Authorities in Essex in supporting the #CrimeNotToCare Campaign alongside Keep Britain Tidy it is hoped that the message will reach more people than undertaking individual campaigns within each area.

## **5. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 5.1 Holding road shows can assist in helping to increase recycling and to encourage a change of behaviour for those who think it is acceptable to drop litter; as well as answering questions residents may have.
- 5.2 To raise resident's awareness about Householders "Duty of Care" for disposing their rubbish responsibly.

## **6. References to Corporate Plan**

- 6.1 The approval of the recommendations will benefit the street scene and environment: -
  - Focus on reducing waste of all kinds by promoting either re-use or recycling.
  - Run Community clean campaigns to improve neighbourhoods.
  - In partnership with the whole community, we aim to make the Borough an even better place to live, work and visit.

## **7. Implications**

### **Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The Campaign is designed to help reduce the cost of clearing up fly tipping incidents and encourage more recycling within the borough which will contribute savings to the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

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### **Legal Implications**

The offence of fly-tipping and the additional offences of “knowingly causing” or “knowingly permitting” fly-tipping are set out in Section 33(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Section 33 is enforceable by both the Environment Agency and the local authorities.

Anyone who produces waste has a duty of care under section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to ensure that it is disposed of properly. Therefore a person may be guilty of an offence under section 34 if their waste has been found to be dumped, even if the dumping was carried out by someone else. The duty applies to both businesses and householders.

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**Other Implications** (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

No additional Health & Safety risks above normal working operations.

7.1 None

**8. Background Papers** (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright)

8.1 None.

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