



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Corporate Enforcement

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INTRODUCTION

Setting the Scene

The Council recognises the importance of delivering a safe and clean environment for residents, visitors and businesses throughout the borough. There is a strong correlation between the environment and people's physical & mental health, safety and quality of life.

Corporate Enforcement was established back in October 2017 to bring together a raft of community safety issues that are key to local communities such as anti-social behaviour, fly tipping, parking, and low-level criminal activity.

The Council took the step to improve their enforcement activity in order to ensure that all its enforcement actions were proactive, robust, efficient and effective. It also recognises the importance of working with our partners to deliver a service that meets the needs of local communities and businesses. As well as robust and effective enforcement it is key to engage with our residents, visitors, businesses, partners and other groups to ensure that we are delivering a high-quality service that meets the needs of those who live, work and visit the borough.

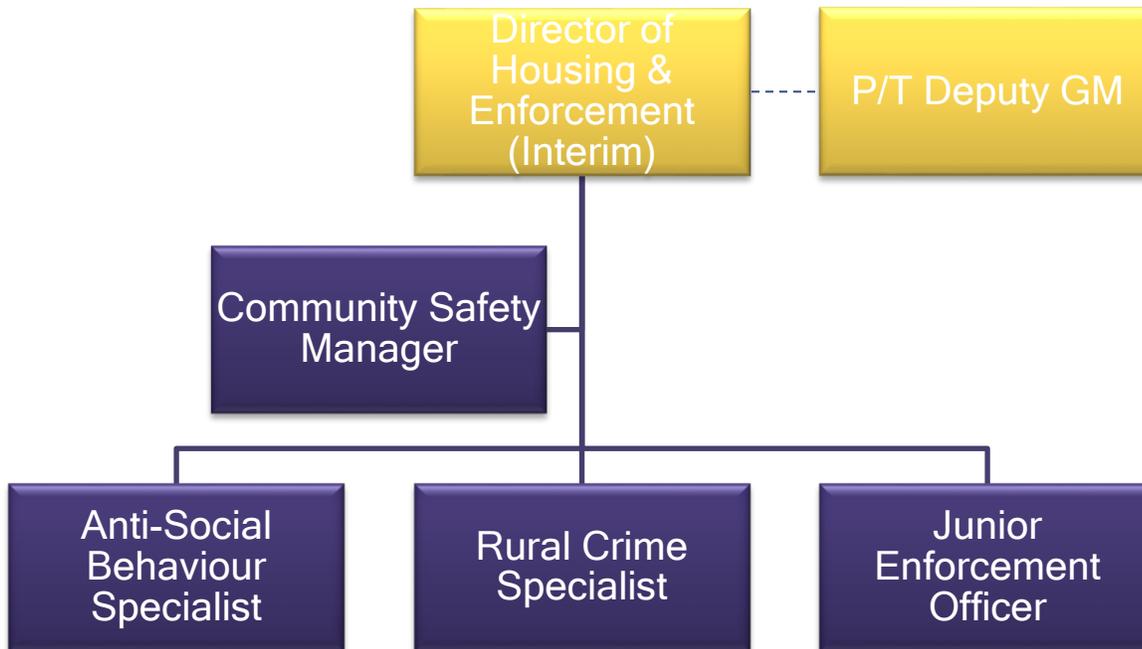
The Team

The team began with the appointment of the General Manager for Corporate Enforcement and a part time Deputy. There was already a small community safety team in place and very early on two additional members joined the newly formed Corporate Enforcement team. A Housing Officer was seconded over to take responsibility for all Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) for council tenancies, and the Street Inspector from operational services also joined the team. There is currently a core team of 6 officers who have specialisms as detailed in the structure chart below.



The Team

Pictured here with the Leader of the Council Cllr Chris Hossack and their enforcement vehicle.



Training & Development

In the last 18 months officers have undergone a fast-paced training regime in order to ensure they have the required enforcement powers to deliver an effective service. This includes Community Safety Accreditation (CSAS) through Essex Police, Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) for parking enforcement and more recently speed camera training for Essex Police.

"The enforcement team has gone from strength to strength in a very short space of time and I am very keen that they continue to make progress in tackling some of the key issues that matter to Brentwood residents such as fly-tipping and unsafe parking.

They are a very capable and motivated team who have the full backing of The Council in improving our town and tackling issues".

Cllr Hossack. Leader of the Council

Looking Ahead

As mentioned, communication and engagement are key in order to keep us accountable but also ensure residents, visitors, business and partners are informed about our work and successes achieved. Whilst the team is still developing and transforming, we are committed to report on our activity. This Annual Report is the first of its kind and provides an insight into the team, our work, our successes and future plans.

OUR PERFORMANCE

As a team we are dedicated to be delivering a high standard of service which is focused on the needs of the local communities we serve. As already mentioned, a key element is to ensure we report on our activities and to be held accountable for action taken. This report aims to detail performance, enforcement action, engagement, training & development.

We are passionate about delivering a quality service whereby incidents are assessed to allow for proactive and effective action to be taken where necessary. Our focus is centred around three key areas:

- Engagement
- Education
- Enforcement

The report focuses on activities undertaken for the period 1st Jun 2018 to 31st May 2019. This will not be a fully operational year as the team have been undergoing training to ensure they are fully accredited and able to undertake proactive enforcement. Nevertheless, it will provide a benchmark against which we can ensure that we are accountable but also allow us to review our processes to ensure we are best placed to be able to deliver a safer borough.

All data and information provided in this report covers the reporting period 1st June 2018 - 31st May 2019



FACTS AND FIGURES

Anti-Social Behaviour

There are several ways in which we tackle incidents in relation to anti-social behaviour (ASB). We work extremely closely with other agencies, in particular Essex Police, undertaking joint visits and patrols.

ASB remains a priority for the team despite some positive results during the reporting period. For Brentwood reports of ASB have reduced month on month according to data supplied by Essex Police. For Brentwood there were 340 fewer incidents compared to the previous year resulting in a reduction of 19.6%.

In total the team have received 241 reports. Of those reported 195 have been referred or closed. There are currently 46 open cases being dealt with by the team. Remedies we use to tackle incidents of ASB include a range of powers. Below is a breakdown of the powers used in the reporting period.

14 Community Protection Warnings issued

2 Community Protection Notices

3 Acceptable
Behaviour
Contracts signed

3 injunctions
obtained at Court

12 Notices
Seeking
Possession served

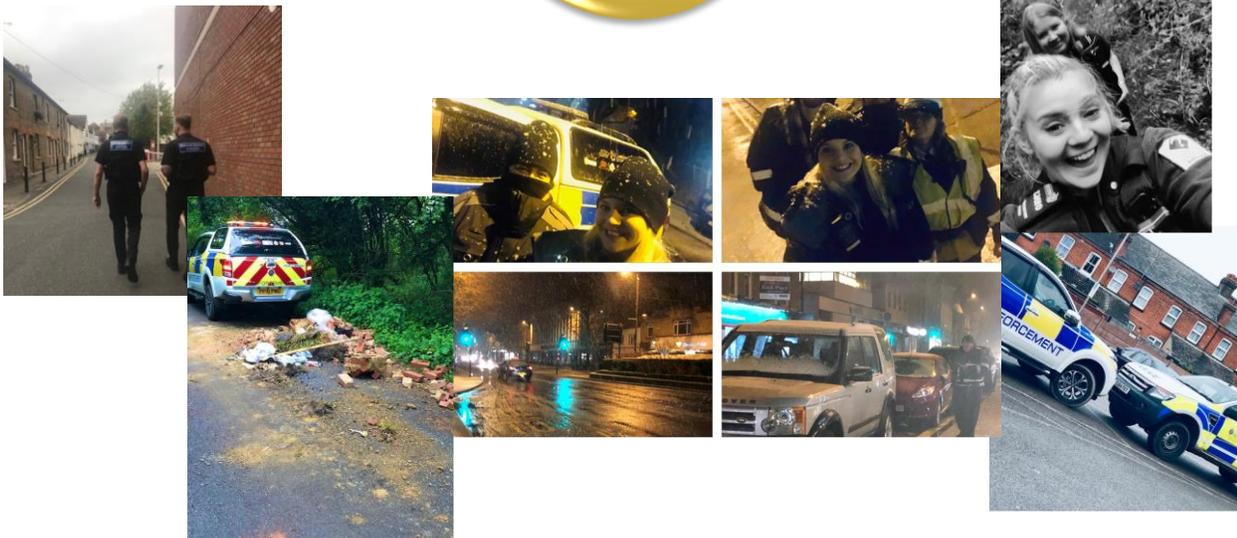
2 pending
Closure Order

As well as enforcement action the team also seek to engage with residents and those affected and have undertaken the following:

- 30 individual door knocks in 19 different locations (over 500 in total)
- 16 letter drops in 9 different locations (over 300 in total)

Patrols

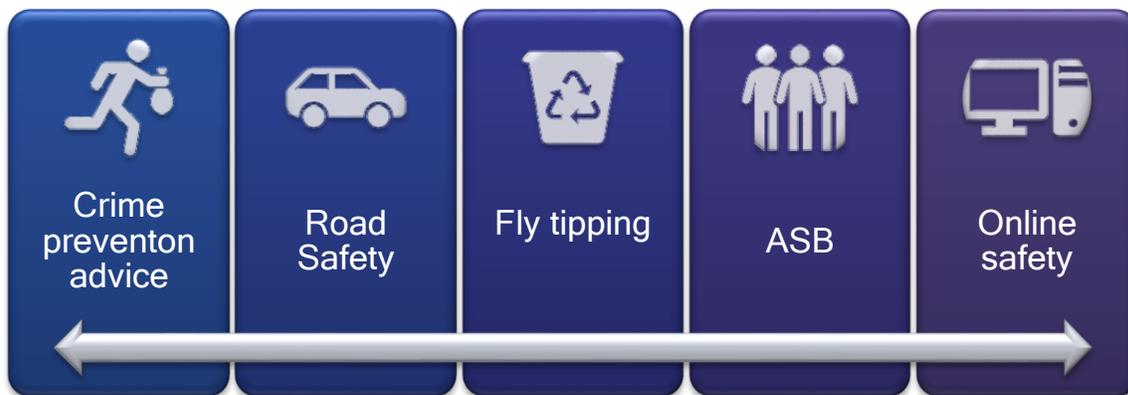
Another key part of our role is to be visible in order to reduce potential incidents but also reassure communities. Patrols undertaken for the reporting period include those on foot and in our dedicated enforcement vehicle:



In addition to our enforcement patrols we also co-ordinate and take part in multi-agency patrols. During the reporting period the team have supported the South Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP) in dedicated on-street parking enforcement around local schools and during the nighttime economy. This resulted in over 300 Penalty Charge Notices being issued.

Engagement Events

We believe that communication is key and therefore have a robust and effective engagement programme. With the support of partners such as Neighbourhood Watch, Essex Police, Crime Stoppers, and Essex County Fire & Rescue we have delivered a whole series of engagement events throughout the reporting year. Each engagement event will focus on a theme from:



A total of **76** events across the borough

12 Strawberry Fair, Family Fun Days, CVS, Mosaic

4 Senior Safety Roadshows

35 libraries

11 High Street Locations

14 Community Hospital

In addition to our engagement activity identified above there is also a Corporate Enforcement newsletter which is sent to Parish Councils, partners, community groups and interested residents to keep communities informed. There is also an active Twitter account @BBCEnforcement.

Environmental Crime

Environmental crime can have a significant detrimental effect on communities and the corporate enforcement team have worked hard to address issues raised by residents across the borough. Fly tipping is a key priority for the Council and our partners. The team have proactively tackled a number of key issues including the following:

363

Warning letters for early presentation of waste

To educate residents on how to present their waste for collection

5

Section 108 Notices

A formal Notice requesting further information. If no response, punishable through the Courts

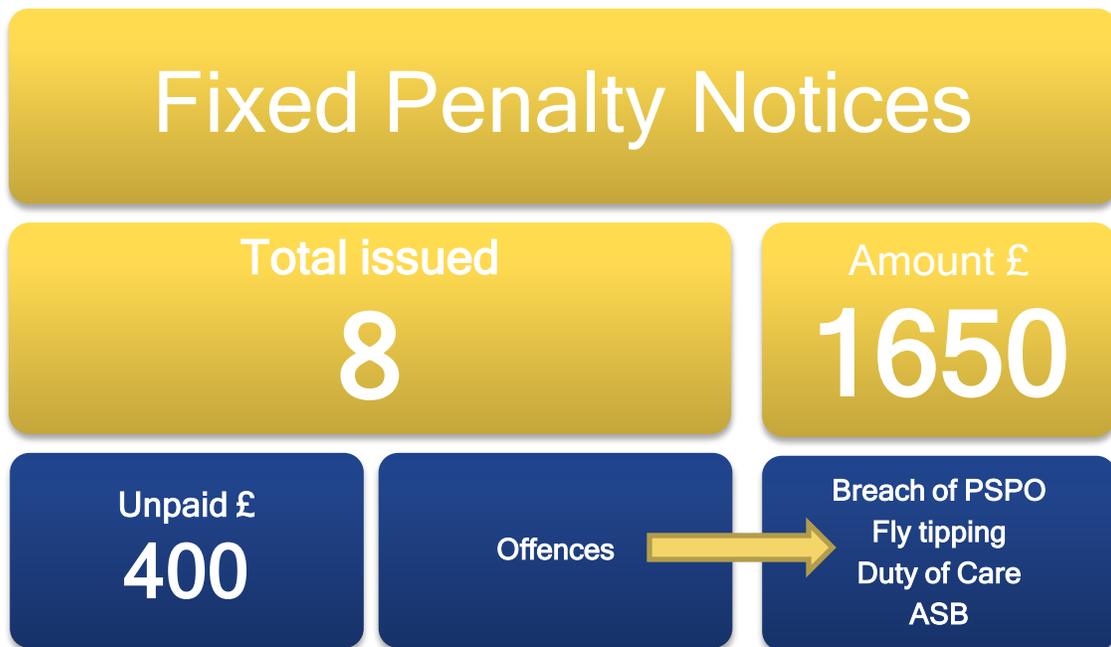
5

Section 46 Notices

A formal Notice issues for incorrect presentation of waste. Punishable by Fixed Penalty

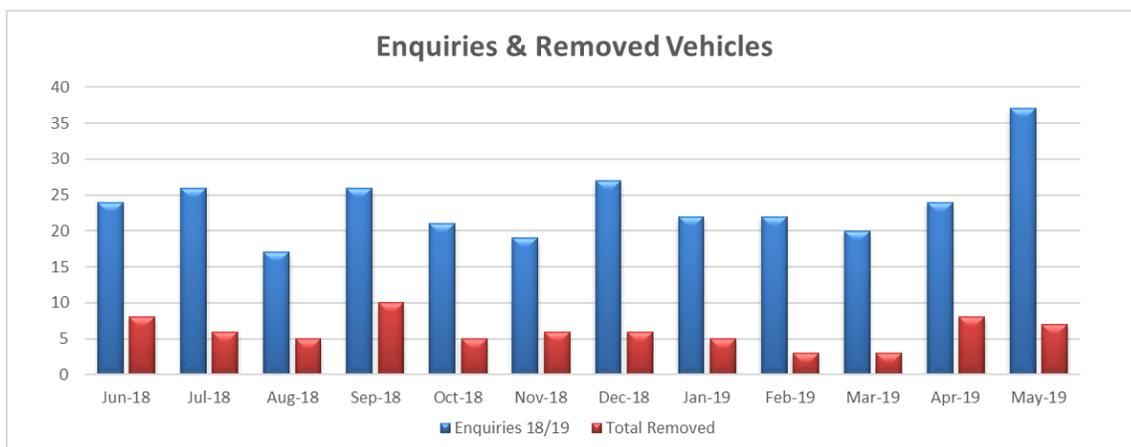
Fixed Penalties Issued

A key element of ensuring our enforcement activity is proactive, effective and timely officers have been provided with the appropriate tools to respond to issues without any unnecessary delays. Therefore, each officer has been issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) book covering a number of offences. This enables officers to issue on the spot fines when appropriate to do so. Each FPN issued is recorded in their books and added to a central register for recording purposes. The following table provides details of FPNs issued for the reporting period.

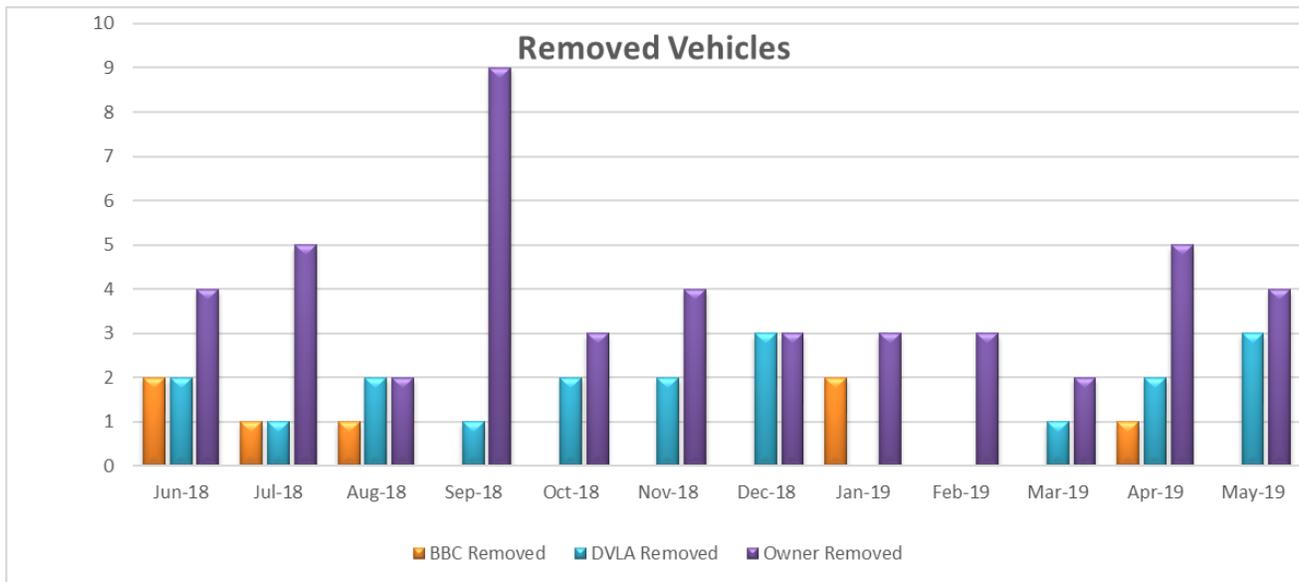


Abandoned Vehicles

The team also deal with abandoned vehicles on the Highway. Figures for the reporting year are shown in the following graphs. It details the number of enquiries against vehicles removed.



For the reporting period the team dealt with a total number of 285 enquires for abandoned vehicles



Fly Tipping

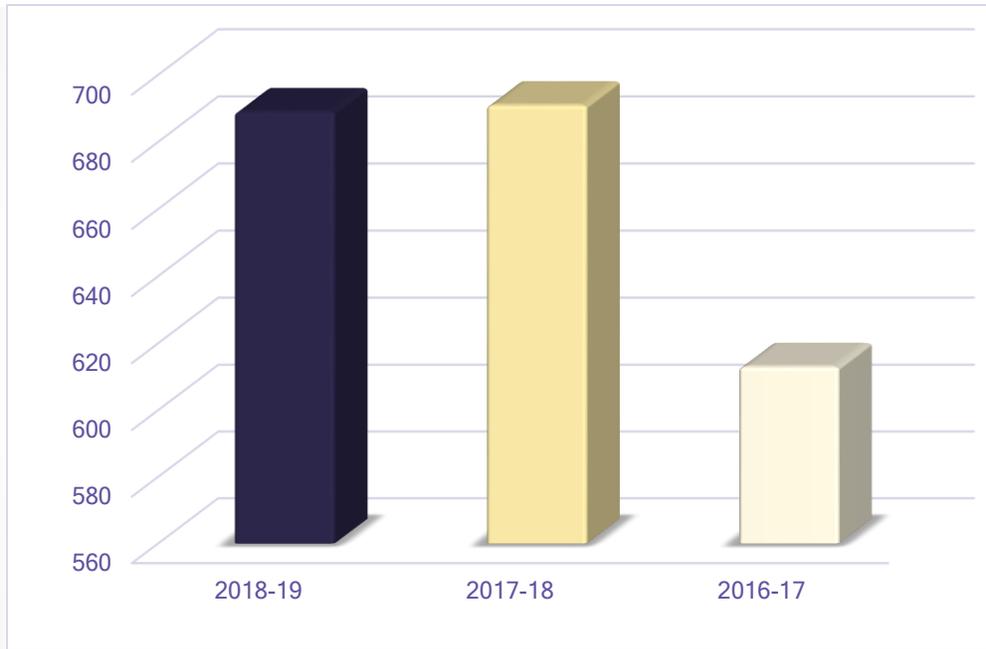
Our communities have several key issues that affect them. However, the most visually unpleasant and costly is fly tipping. The team recognises the blight of fly tipping in the Borough and have worked with local communities and partners to look at ways in which we can reduce the opportunity for those intent on fly tipping. A key factor is tackling the issue in a proactive and effective way is firstly understanding the extent of the problem, where the hotspot locations are, the kinds of fly tips, and any contributing factors. This will better inform the enforcement activity undertaken by the team and the potential to target harden.

Fly tipping has been a huge area of focus alongside other competing priorities and is a balance between education and enforcement. The table below shows a comparison on the number of fly tips over a three-year period including by month to provide a comparative.



Totals

The graph shows total numbers of fly tips for each year of a three-year period from 2016.



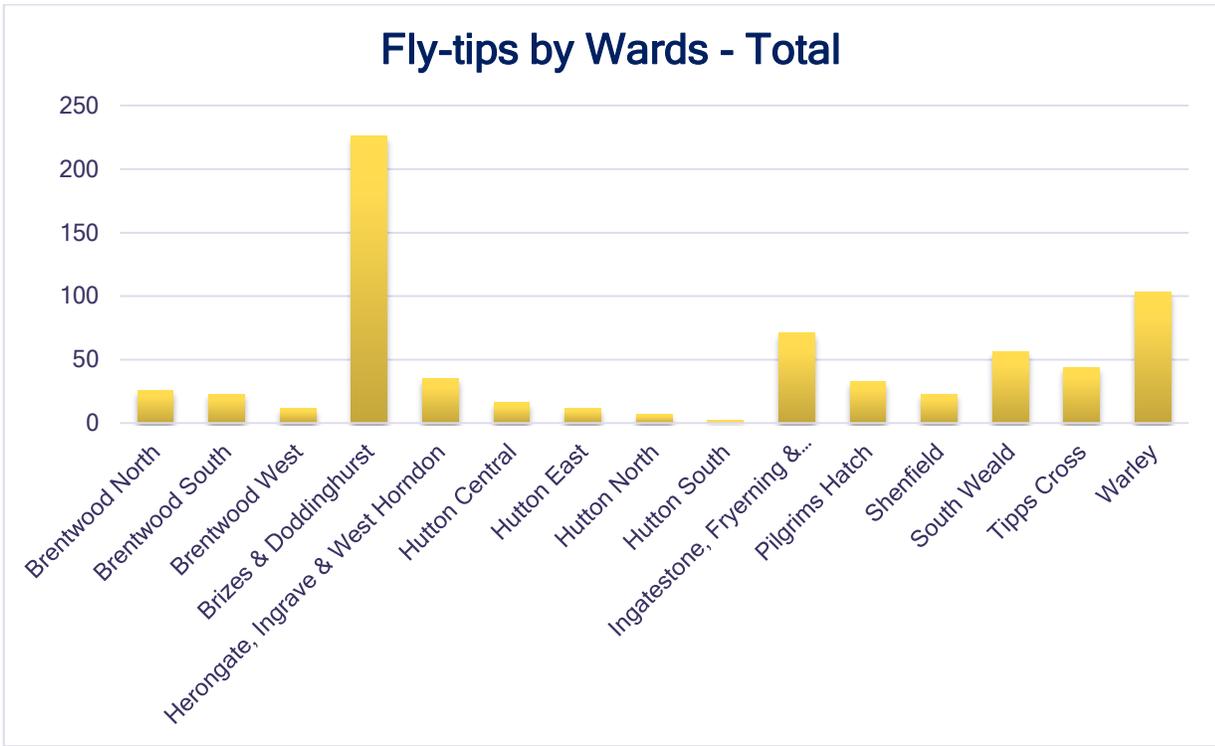
The following table details the fly tips over the reporting period that have been reported to and removed by the Council by waste types. This currently does not include fly tipping on housing land.

Waste Type	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	Total	Combined Total
Bags - Household	5	3	4	8	5	9	1	6	10	6	6	5	68	275
Household - Other	12	14	27	12	11	10	11	37	32	18	12	11	207	
Blue Bags (Trade)		1			1								2	165
Commercial - Other	11	1	11	13	3	7	6	27	19	26	13	19	156	
Chemical Drums		1	1	1				1					4	
Other Electrical						1							1	
Clinical									1	1			2	
Asbestos	2	1	1	1	4	1					1	1	12	
Construction	11	10	20	20	7	9	8	17	6	9	6	7	130	635
Tyres		2	4	1		1	1	3	2	3	1		18	
Vehicle Parts	1	1	3	1		1		1					8	
White Goods		4	2	3	4	4	5	1	1	3			27	
Green	2	5	3	7	1	5	2	1	1	2	1	5	35	
Grand Total	42	38	73	60	35	43	32	93	71	66	39	43	635	

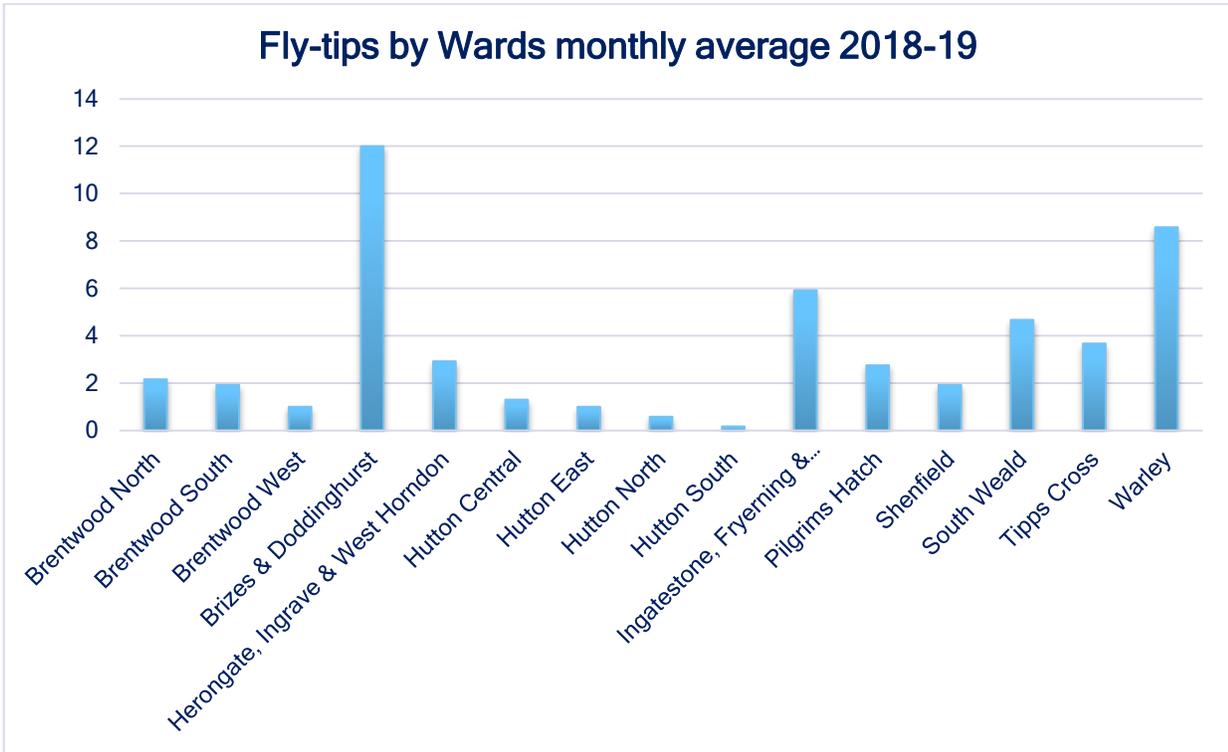
The figures have identified the importance of educating residents and businesses around the duty of care which is something the team have recognised and is highlighted in the engagement section of the report.

The next set of graphs detail fly tips by ward. In order to provide more detail and evidence of where to focus our activity we have also included a breakdown of the monthly average.

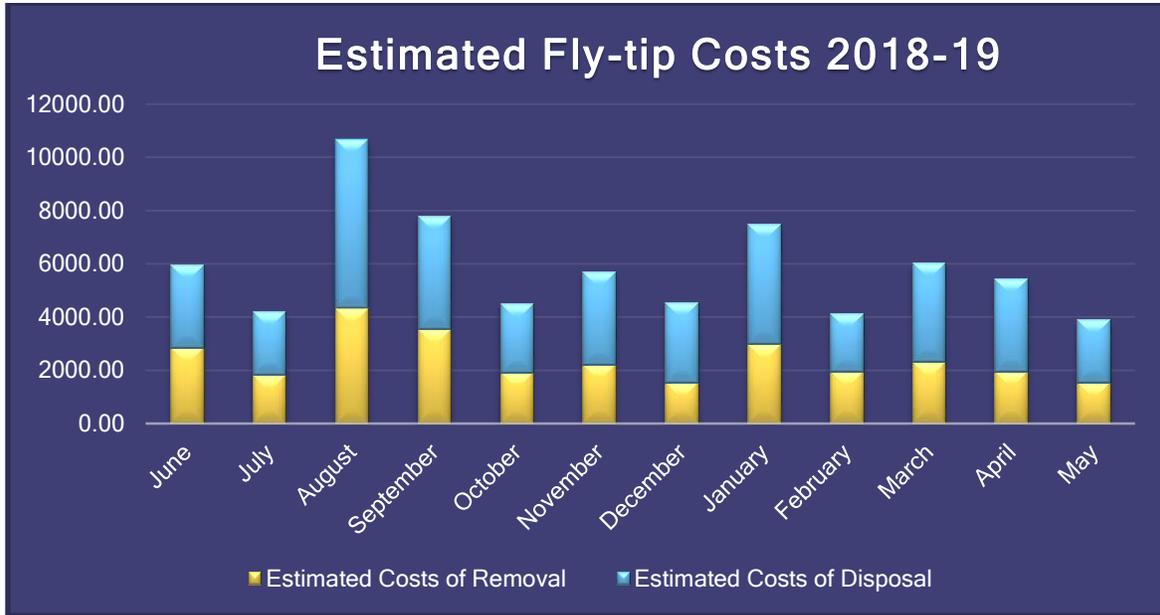
Fly-tips by Wards - Total



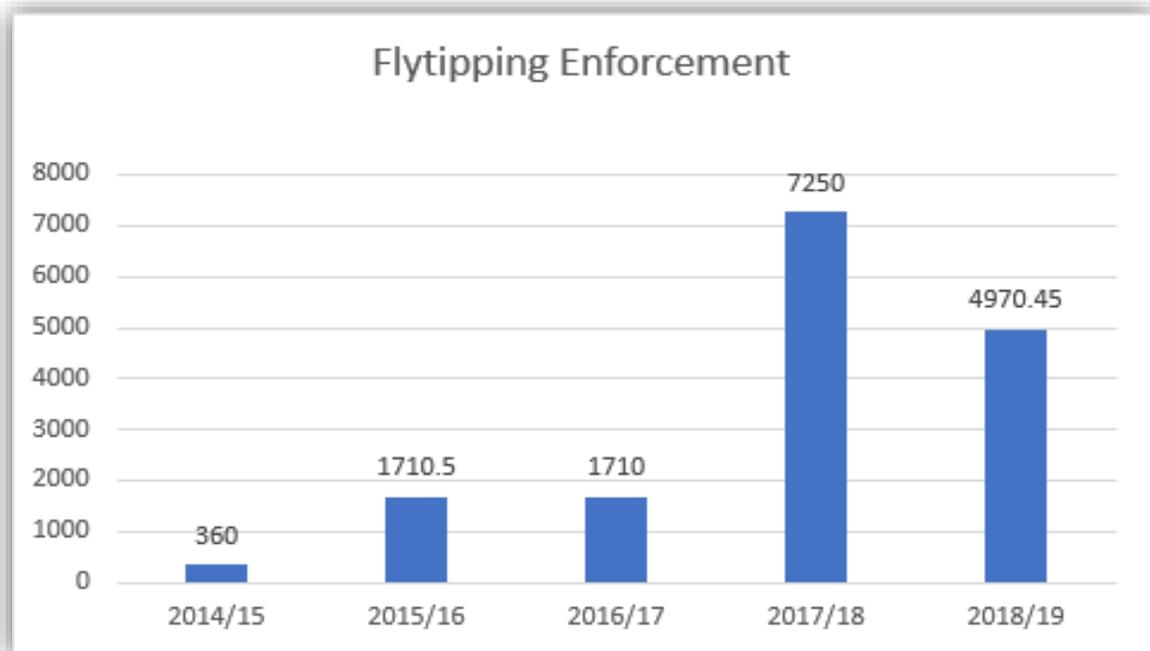
Fly-tips by Wards monthly average 2018-19



Fly tipping as mentioned earlier is a blight on communities but also has significant cost implications to the Council and Essex County Council who pay for disposal costs. The final graph provides a breakdown of estimated cost of removal and disposal by month for the reporting period.



We are continuing our efforts to proactively enforce against anyone involved in fly tipping across the borough. In this reporting period we have successfully prosecuted 5 offences resulting in fines in almost totalling £5,000 as shown below. The graph also details an increase in successful prosecutions since the inception of the Corporate Enforcement team in 2017.



CASE STUDIES

TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION

The Council has put in place a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in the town centre to help combat anti-social behaviour. Council enforcement officers actively patrol the area and over the last year have used the powers available to tackle issues including anti-social behaviour and begging. They have also undertaken several dedicated joint patrols with partners including Essex Police and South Essex Partnership tackling community safety issues and concerns raised in relation to parking in the Town Centre during the night-time economy. The joint initiative has already seen a reduction in the issues raised by residents. The area that comes under the PSPO is shown in the map on the right.

District Commander Chief Inspector Lewis Basford said: "We all want the same thing - safe communities, reduced fear of crime and problems identified and solved quickly. My officers are working hard alongside the Council's enforcement officers to make the town even safer and residents are already seeing the positive effect of the Order. This is a really effective joined-up approach to tackling the issues which residents and visitors raised".



Tackling Drugs in the Borough

Following growing concerns in relation to drugs Essex Police embarked on a dedicated operation to target those involved in drugs supply in the borough.

The Council were extremely pleased to be a part of the Operation which was a culmination of months of work supported in part by Council officers providing intelligence and working with local officers. The Operation was welcomed by residents and work continues with the Councils enforcement officers working closely with local CPT and shift officers on joint operations.

CONCLUSION

The report hopefully provides an insight into the activity of the team and sets a benchmark for future reporting. It is hoped that the team will be fully operational with all required powers by the end of September 2019. This will mean that the Council will have a core team of officers who have powers to deal with a wide range of issues that have been identified by residents, visitors and businesses.

Brentwood is leading the way in the development of the corporate enforcement team and significant results have been materialised that have been recognised not only by our local communities but also our partners and other local authority areas who have approached us for guidance and support.

From the outset it has been our intention to be open and honest about our activity and whilst performance has its place, compliance is our aim. If we can achieve compliance without enforcement that is our preferred option. However, the corporate enforcement team have adopted a firm but fair approach which is both proactive and effective.

Our aim is to build on our success and continue to grow and develop as a team providing a service to residents, businesses and visitors that creates a safe, clean and thriving environment for all to enjoy.