

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda
Item No.

meeting date: 6th NOVEMBER 2012
title: FLYTIPPING IN THE RIBBLE VALLEY
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: PETER McGEORGE

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To provide Members with information on the number of incidents and issues relating to flytipping within the Ribble Valley.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – To protect and enhance the existing environmental quality of our area.
- Corporate Priorities – To provide a high quality environment, keeping land clear of litter and refuse, and reducing incidents of dog fouling.
- Other Considerations – To continue with our approach of zero tolerance of dog fouling, litter and flytipping.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Flytipping is the illegal deposit of any waste onto land or a highway that has no licence to accept it. Flytipping can vary in the scale and type of waste which may include general household waste, larger household items, such as furniture, carpets and white goods, garden waste or commercial waste.

2.2 Flytipping does cause a local nuisance and reduces the amenity value to the community and at worst can lead to serious pollution of the environment and harm to human health if hazardous waste is involved.

2.3 As well as being able to take action against those that have dumped the waste, local Councils can fine the producer of the waste (which includes householders) who have a duty to ensure that they employ registered waste carriers to dispose / recycle their waste.

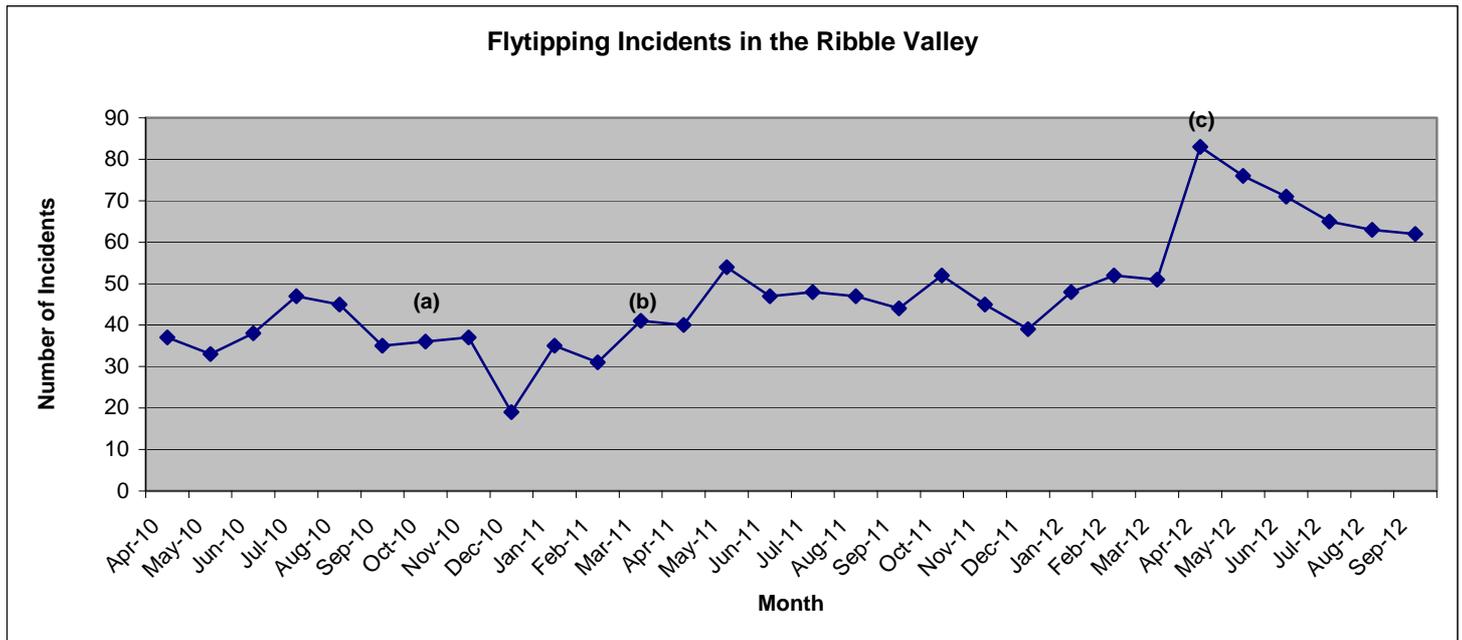
2.4 Flytipping is a serious problem in England and Wales and is costing up to £150 million every year to deal with the problem.

2.5 Since April 2004 district authorities have been required to submit information every month to a national database (Flycapture). This information includes the number and description of flytipping incidents within our respective authorities. Flycapture was brought in as part of the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003 requiring Local Authorities and the Environment Agency in England and Wales to record incidents of flytipping.

3 ISSUES

3.1 The graph (fig 1) below sets out the trend of flytipping incidents recorded within the Ribble Valley between April 2010 to September 2012.

Fig. 1



3.2 The three dates highlighted in fig.1 identify key events that have had an impact on flytipping within the Ribble Valley, and these are as follows,

- a) October 2010 - The closure of Padiham Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)
- b) March 2011 - The closure of Petre Arms Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)
- c) March 2012 - The closure of Great Harwood Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) and the introduction of charges for the collection of bulky household waste.

3.3 Whilst there is little evidence to prove what impact the closure of Padiham HWRC had on our residents and on the incidents of flytipping, your officers did undertake an investigation following the closure of Petre Arms HWRC. The findings of this investigation showed that flytipping in general had increased by 50% but more importantly that in the catchment area of the Petre Arms HWRC the number of flytipping incidents rose by 131%.

3.4 It should be noted at this point that the initial increases in flytipping were only temporary with the numbers returning to the norm after a few months.

3.5 It was disappointing that the County Council chose to close the Great Harwood HWRC, which was supposed to be the nearest alternative for our residents previously covered by the Petre Arms HWRC.s

3.6 As you can see from fig.1(c) the introduction of charges for special / bulky collections probably did initially have an effect on flytipping and also reduced demand for the collection service. You will also notice that since April 2012, the number of flytipping incidents has declined month by month. I can also report that although demand for special / bulky collections reduced dramatically on the introduction of charges in April 2012 demand has since increased by over 45%.

- 3.7 Finding evidence or witnesses to flytipping does prove extremely difficult and limits what enforcement action officers can take. The majority of incidents occur in secluded locations out of public view and although the flytipped material is inspected for evidence more often than not nothing is found.
- 3.8 A protocol for the deployment of surveillance cameras is currently being produced that will help in the fight to prevent this blight on our landscape and identify the offenders.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – The cost of dealing with flytipping incidents is covered within current service budgets although our resources are diverted from other tasks to deal with each incident. As officers predicted one of the benefits of the reduced number of special / bulky collections is that are putting in less resources into the service and making savings of £10k per annum in the agency staff budget. Officers are also confident that the original estimate of £16k for income generated through the introduction of the charges will be achieved.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – Flytipped waste is recycled where ever possible with the remainder added to the residual waste stream and taken to the Waste Technology Parks for treatment. As mentioned earlier in the report flytipping does cause a local nuisance and reduces the amenity value to the community and at worst can lead to serious pollution of the environment and harm to human health if hazardous waste is involved.
- Political – No implications identified
- Reputation – By dealing quickly and effectively with incidents of flytipping we are protecting the reputation of Ribble Valley as an area of outstanding natural beauty.
- Equality & Diversity – No implications identified.

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 Members are requested to note this report

PETER McGEORGE
WASTE MANAGEMENT OFFICER

JOHN HEAP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS
Waste Management Files

For further information please ask for Peter McGeorge, extension 4467.