

**Council – 4 December 2024**

**Notice of Motion under Standing Order No 10**

Rachel Taylor MP asked a question in Parliament where she stated that she had uncovered the shocking statistic that showed North Warwickshire Borough Council prosecuted only one fly tipper in the year 2022/23. She asked the Minister for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she found that dismal statistic acceptable.

**That Council notes North Warwickshire Borough Council's Approach to Fly Tipping:**

- Similar to other local authorities, NWBC has a large number of fly tipping incidents reported each year; it is the second highest crime type in the Borough and costs around £205,000 pa. The Council cannot control how many cases happen in the Borough given the open and rural nature of our area. The Council and its residents are the victims here rather than a party to blame.
- The Council can only seek to take action where there is information within the waste as to where it has come from or a witness or camera can identify the vehicle used.
- All such cases are followed up by Officers however there are often very good reasons why further action cannot be taken – common reasons involve witness understandably not wishing to make a formal statement, false number plates (suggesting a link to organised crime) or no trace of suspects at registered addresses.
- NWBC takes fly tipping very seriously, it is considered under the Community and Environment Board and minutes of that Board are presented at full Council. Fly tipping is also considered in the Safer Communities Committee.
- In 2023 and 2024 there have been 2 reports each year on fly tipping presented to Community and Environment Board and 3 to Safer Communities.

- At the August 2024 meeting the Board agreed to significantly increase the amount payable for a Fixed Penalty Notice. During the last report to the Community and Environment Board in October, the newly appointed Environmental Crime Officer who started in this newly created post this summer presented on his plans for more enforcement and the use of a drone to further address the issue of fly tipping.
- Prosecution is only one of the actions which may be taken in response to fly tipping; our records show that, in addition to 174 other enforcement actions, there were 2 prosecutions and 2 fixed penalty notices in 2022/23, rather than the single case shown in the DEFRA figures.
- In 2023/24 there were 1151 reported incidents of fly tipping in North Warwickshire; there were 93 enforcement actions. In the first 2 quarters of 2024/25 there were 591 reported incidents of fly tipping and 33 enforcement actions.
- In 2023 NWBC trialled the use of 6 Artificial Intelligence cameras to assess their effectiveness in capturing fly tipping events.
- NWBC have created an interactive Power BI report displaying hotspots, volumes and waste types to enable managers to make timely decisions.
- Rachel Taylor remains a councillor in NWBC and is free to attend any Board meeting and is required to attend full Council meetings; she should be fully aware of the data and the Council's actions in this area.
- During her time as a councillor Ms Taylor has never asked a question on fly tipping.

**Council resolves:**

To request the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to recognise NWBC's approach to and actions on fly tipping and call on him to acknowledge that Ms Taylor's question in Parliament led to a distorted view of NWBC's focus on this area.

Proposer Councillor Bell