

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

COUNCILLOR JIM SMITH

PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: MARTIN EDEN
DATE: 5th OCTOBER 2017

YOUR CALL

After a strong start to the year for 'Your Call' environmental clean-up events, number have significantly reduced over the last 2 months, with the figures below clearly demonstrating the impact:-

	Number of Events	Number of Attendees
July 2016	24	493
July 2017	11	195
August 2016	16	205
August 2017	5	71

The Lancashire Volunteer Portal may help with developing numbers, indeed the Council has over 300 volunteer litterpickers across the borough, but whilst the portal is becoming established, a concerted effort to increase numbers is needed.

GREEN WASTE

The number of subscribers to the service has continued to increase, over 14,500 residents have now signed up to the green waste collection service. As expected, green waste tonnages have reduced this year, however the quality has significantly improved, seeing greater recycling. The reduction in tonnages has been by approximately 20% when compared to the tonnage we received from 27,000 properties that had access to a green waste collection service last year. Work on developing the scheme for 2018 is underway, with prices remaining the same.

PUBLIC PROTECTION ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Whilst the Public Protection Service tries to encourage compliance by using informal means whenever possible, there are occasions where formal action is necessary. In the last quarter:

- Five cases have been heard at Blackburn Magistrates Court, all were either found guilty or guilty pleas. Three related to accumulations of rubbish in back yards, one related to the sale of illegal fireworks and one related to the sale of tobacco to a Council underage sales volunteer.
- One food premise has been found to be substandard, and has been closed, pending cleaning and investigation.

- One warrant has been executed to gain entry to residential premises, to seize noise making equipment.
- One licence review has been lodged, in relation to an off licence selling Alcohol to underage volunteers.
- Two licensees have been brought to the Licensing Committee under new licensing powers, following discovery of relevant offences.
- One taxi driver's licence has been revoked due to concerns.

Flytipping Enforcement

The use of CCTV is proving to be successful in the fight against illegal flytipping in the Borough. Officers are using mobile CCTV units at problem locations to catch offenders.

So far this year cameras have been rotated around 30 locations, with 20 fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping being served and three vehicles seized.

Most importantly, the cameras and their warning signs are proving to be very effective in reducing the amount of fly tipping at locations they are being used, with particular success at sites such as Olive Lane and Anyon St Darwen and also Exeter St Blackburn, where flytipping has reduced.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR TAXI DRIVERS

Safeguarding training is now mandatory for all hackney carriage and private hire drivers in Blackburn with Darwen, with a series of training sessions being held in September, to help drivers comply with this new licence requirement.

The training is being provided by the Council's Safeguarding Team, and each session lasts approximately one hour. All of Blackburn with Darwen's drivers will have completed this course by the end of the financial year.