

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

LINCOLNSHIRE
Environmental
Crime
Partnership



Protecting Lincolnshire's environment by working together to effectively tackle waste related crimes.

OUR MISSION

To reduce and prevent fly tipping across Lincolnshire, by bringing all relevant agencies together and working in partnership.

To seek to find new and innovative methods for closer working, both operationally and strategically.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

In 2019, the Police and Crime Commissioner held a summit and brought together key partners to assess the current levels of fly-tipping in Lincolnshire and understand what was being done to tackle it. Attendees signed a 'pledge' to seek new ways of working together to tackle fly-tipping.

In Autumn 2020, The Environmental Crime Partnership for Lincolnshire (ECP) was formed when there was a very noticeable rise in fly tipping incidences across Lincolnshire over spring/ summer 2020.

The ECP has many different Partners throughout Lincolnshire which can be seen in detail within this report. I am so pleased that the ECP was formed and a real commitment shown from all Partners.

The first meeting (held virtually) was on the 24 November 2020 and the ECP has had five further meetings since then. In the early stages the necessary paperwork was completed, including agreeing a terms of reference and an overall ambition. After this, project ideas started to form and be undertaken/ trialled. The ECP was also able to elect a Chair and Vice Chair (Stuart Hoyle from the Environment Agency)

and in May 2021 we welcomed an Official Secretary from The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (Lincolnshire). We also formed a Practitioners group- where Environmental Crime Officers across Lincolnshire are able to share best practice and shared ways of working.

As you will read within this report, we have been able to develop some exciting projects and actions, with some currently in development soon to be launched.

The ECP has been able to come together to create essential and innovative ways to tackle fly-tipping, and I am proud of what it has achieved already, but also what will be achieved in the future.

I would like to thank all that have supported the actions so far with special mention to Lincolnshire Police, The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Environment Agency.

A. Kirkham.



MEMBERSHIP



ACHIEVEMENTS

Information Sharing Agreement

An information sharing agreement (ISA) has been created to assist in sharing information and intelligence relating to fly tipping and environmental crime amongst partners. This will enable the partnership to meet its aims and objectives.

The ISA, which has been signed by partners, defines the arrangements for sharing of information between member organisations.

This is the first such ISA in England for waste crime between local authorities, the EA, police and other agencies.

"The Environment Agency and the other partners are extremely grateful to Lincolnshire Police for offering to write the agreement which has been approved by the EA's Legal and Data Protection departments.

"Lincolnshire now has the first such waste crime Information Sharing Agreement in England. This is being reviewed in other counties as a template and has been reviewed by DEFRA as part of creating a national template for use by other partnerships that will not be creating their own local agreement."

Stuart Hoyle

Waste Crime Engagement Specialist at The Environment Agency.

Environmental crime officers working group

The creation of an environmental crime officers working group allows local practitioners from across the county to come together to share experiences and influence strategy by reporting into the Environmental Crime Partnership.

Agreed definitions

The partnership have agreed a county-wide fly tipping and hot spot definition to support joint-working between partners and consistency of their approach.

Fly tipping

"The illegal deposit of any waste on to land that does not have a license to accept it."

Hotspot

"A hot spot location should be an area where 3 or more incidents of fly tipping have occurred at the same location * within a one month period."

**Location is any specific geographical area determined by the Council for that area.*

Successful convictions

Numerous convictions have been achieved across the county. Many of these have resulted in fines of over £2,000 and sanctions including a suspended prison sentence and a driving ban.

Training for environmental crime practitioners

New training on fly tipping legislation has been delivered to environmental crime practitioners across the county with Lincolnshire Legal.

Operation Cyber Guardian

The partnership has supported Operation Cyber Guardian, removing illegal waste service advertising on social media.

Operation Asgard

The introduction of Operation Asgard with Lincolnshire Police will see the seizure of offenders' vehicles for forfeiture or destruction.

Campaign for tougher legal action on fly-tippers

The partnership have contributed to the campaign lobbying central Government for tougher legal action on fly-tippers.

Currently, sentences handed down do not always match the severity of the offence committed or fairly reflect the costs incurred by the public purse. This means that punishment for the offence of fly-tipping does not act as a suitable deterrent.

The partnership, alongside Hertfordshire Waste Partnership and other local authorities and professional bodies, have called upon the Sentencing Council to consider tougher fines and sentences for fly-tipping offences.



Operation Clean Sweep

Intelligence led and targeted days of action were coordinated between partners and other key agencies (DVSA, HMRC), to disrupt and intervene against waste crime.

Operation Clean Sweep resulted in multiple vehicle seizures, prohibition notices and preventing large quantities of waste from being illegally deposited.



"Waste crime undermines legitimate business, can cause harm to the environment and misery for local people."

"We are continuing to work with our enforcement partners in pursuing those committing illegal waste activities across Lincolnshire. We remain committed to the closure of illegal waste sites."

Stuart Hoyle
Waste crime engagement specialist for the Environment Agency.
Deputy Chair of the Lincolnshire Environmental Crime Partnership.



Lets SCRAP Fly-tipping campaign

The Let's SCRAP fly-tipping campaign was launched across Lincolnshire at the beginning of 2020.

The joined-up campaign aims to fight the blight of fly-tipping in the county and cut clear up cost by reminding people of the SCRAP code:

Suspect ALL waste carriers

Check that the provider taking your waste away is licensed

Refuse unexpected offers to have waste taken away

Ask what will happen to your waste

Paperwork should be obtained – get a full receipt

SCRAP is based on an award-winning and successful campaign developed by the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership and its partner authorities.

“Fly tipping is a terrible blight on our countryside and our communities and I fully support the partnership in its proactive campaign to tackle this problem. It only takes a few seconds to check if a waste carrier is legitimate but that few seconds can make a huge difference in time, cost and damage.”

Marc Jones

Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

If you come across fly tipping report it to your local Council



Let's **S.C.R.A.P.** fly tipping

Use your Council's bulky waste collection service, don't risk **YOUR** items being fly tipped



Why are you dumping your rubbish?

- I'm a jerk
- I don't care about this community
- I think other people should pay to clean up after me



DON'T BE A TOSSER
Dispose of your rubbish responsibly

If you see anyone fly tipping call 101

Let's **S.C.R.A.P.** fly tipping

www.mybostonuk.com

PROJECTS AND FUTURE AMBITIONS

- Continue to introduce a county-wide communications plan, to support consistent environmental crime prevention messages.
- To extend the use of the vulnerable land panel, where our partners work together at identified locations, to proactively prevent environmental crime.
- Build on the early success of the vehicle seizure. and storage initiative and introduce it in all local authority areas.
- Support the phased promotion of a waste carrier's website 'Widget' to enable the public and businesses to easily identify licensed waste carriers.



- Find new ways to improve data capture regarding fly tipping across Lincolnshire.
- Continue to maintain an open invitation to other groups and stakeholders who may be able to contribute towards the aim of the ECP in protecting Lincolnshire's environment.
- Establish a defined ECP social media presence, to increase ease of reporting, intelligence gathering and influence public awareness and behaviour.



Chair:

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