

Load of Rubbish? Advice to Help Prevent Fly-tipping

As part of Nettleton Parish Council's ongoing drive to combat fly-tipping, we recently met the manager of Wiltshire Council's small but busy Highways & Environment Enforcement Team, Peter White.

Peter had some really helpful insights into the issue – flagging amongst other things how innocent householders and businesses could be accidentally contributing to the problem by engaging “rogue traders”. These are people who offer to remove waste and tip it for a knock-down price – only to dump the waste illegally and pocket the cash.

Professional waste carriers have to register and obtain a waste carriers licence. And they don't use household re-cycling centres. They use sites for commercial disposal because when they remove waste from a property for money it is a commercial transaction – whether it's from a home or a business.

If your waste is identified - even if you didn't personally fly-tip it - you could be liable for a fixed penalty notice of £400 and prosecuted. So, the next time you think you need help disposing of waste remember to:

- Conduct checks to ensure your waste is being removed by an authorised carrier. You can ask to see the licence or check online by visiting: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers> or by calling the Environment Agency on **03708 506506**.
- You can ask for a receipt detailing where the waste is going and the waste carrier's licence number. This is a legal obligation for businesses but householders are also advised to request this information. And remember, if they say they are using the Household Recycling Centre they are committing an offence.
- If you have concerns but have already handed over the waste, make a note of the model, colour and registration number of the vehicle and a description of the persons removing the waste.

If you come across fly-tipping, do not rummage through the waste or disturb it as this could affect the scene and potential prosecution. It may also put you in danger as there could be hazardous or sharp items hidden among the waste. Instead take a photograph of it if you can, make a note of the location and alert Wiltshire Council. It has trained staff who will carry out a thorough examination of the waste as part of their investigation and take steps to prosecute wherever possible.

The most effective way to report fly-tipping is via the council's online reporting App – **My Wiltshire** at: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywiltshire-online-reporting . You can also contact one of your local parish councillors or telephone Wiltshire Council on 0300 456 0100.