

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY 1 APRIL 2003 AT 10.30AM**

**REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2003**

FLY-TIPPING AND DUMPING IN HERTFORDSHIRE

The Scrutiny Committee has considered a report on issues surrounding the illegal dumping of waste in Hertfordshire.

The fly-tipping and dumping of waste in Hertfordshire appear to be on the increase and the problems being created are both visually intrusive and costly to deal with. There are a number of factors that are likely to have contributed to this, but none that stand out as being directly responsible. It is likely that significant increases in the costs of disposal that have occurred in recent years, largely because of the Landfill Tax, are a major factor behind fly-tipping but it is also likely that there are other contributory factors that are far more complex in nature. It is probably true to say that since the introduction of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, many operators within the waste management industry have been unable to cope with the volume and complexity of new waste regulatory processes.

Problems created by illegal dumping are not restricted to fly-tipping and dumping of waste. Litter is more prevalent and the number of vehicles being abandoned seems to be on the increase. Emerging legislation aimed at raising the standards of vehicle disposal will also increase costs and it is likely, in the short term, that the abandoned vehicle problem will be exacerbated.

Fly-tipping and dumping falls into the category of 'controlled waste deposited on land where a waste management licence is not in force'. Most incidents then fall under one of four main headings; illegal dumping, fly-tipping, littering and the abandoning of vehicles.

Whilst legislation is in place for dealing with each of the four the duties and powers relating to them is different in each case. The County Council, the District and Borough Councils, the Environment Agency and the police are all involved but it is often unclear, particularly to the general public, where the actual responsibilities lie.

Conclusion

Having discussed this issue the Committee recognised this is of great concern to the people of Hertfordshire.

In particular they have welcomed the initiatives on:

- Countywide work on abandoned cars
- Waste Aware
- Rural Forum initiative to encourage reporting and minimise fly-tipping
- Fire Service Arson Strategy
- Joint Municipal Waste Strategy

The Committee have recommended that this issue be taken forward through the Waste Management Panel by setting up a joint working group to include the Police, the Fire Service, the National Farmers Union, District Councils and the Environment Agency.

Chris White
Chairman
County Hall
18 March 2003