

NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT (ENVIRONMENTAL) ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY 2020 / 21

1. The Council aims to reduce fly-tipping and improve the street scene through prevention measures, communication and enforcement activity, in line with Building a Better Bromley's '*A Quality Environment*' & '*Safe Bromley*', outcomes, as well as achieving the aims set out within the Environment Portfolio Plan 2020/ 21 and Public Protection and Enforcement Portfolio Plan.

2. Outcome 4 of the Public Protection and Enforcement Plan is: '**We will protect and improve the environment through custodianship enforcement**' and the supporting aim (with respect to street scene enforcement) is as follows:

- **Aim 4.7:** Investigate and enforce complaints of enviro-crime in accordance with the regulatory framework.

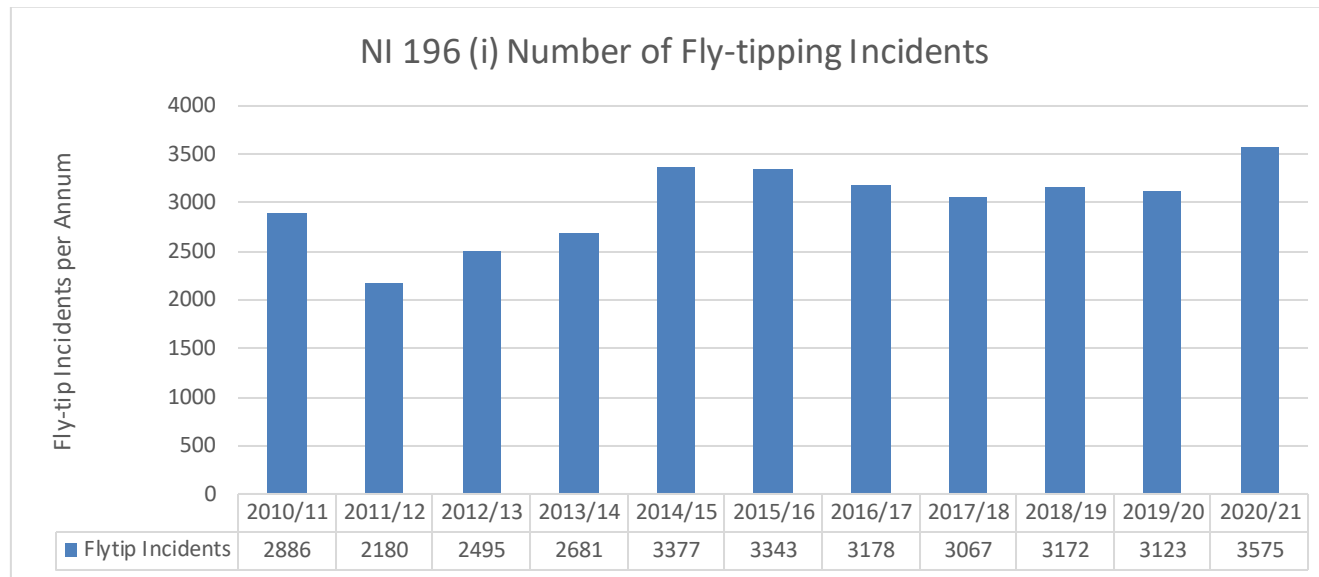
3. There is 1 FTE fly tipping Enforcement officer's post who is responsible for investigating the reported fly tipping incidents where evidence has been collected by the contractor.

Fly Tipping

4. Despite action taken by the Council over a period of years to tackle enviro-crime and fly-tipping, it continues to blight the street scene. Fly-tipping has a huge impact on residents, and there are high costs associated with Council clean-up operations, in addition to the associated health, safety and environmental risks.

5. There were 3575 fly-tipping incidents in 2020 / 21, an increase of 242 incidents on the previous year (see Table 1 below). All incidents of fly tipping are checked by the contractor for any possible evidence that may lead to enforcement action, whilst officers also manually check reports for details of evidence/witnesses and follow up these leads once located.

Table 1



Number of fly-tipping incidents 2019/20

6. The Council's aim is to investigate and take appropriate enforcement action in respect of 10% of fly-tipping incidents. Enforcement action cannot be taken for each incident, due to lack of evidence. Last year the team held four operations with the Metropolitan Police targeting vehicles involved in fly-tipping. These operations resulted in the stop and search of 52 vehicles and verbal advice provided to several drivers. During these stops officers can utilise a range of enforcement powers which could result in seizure of vehicles.

7. Community Impact Days are planned and held monthly in the Borough. Client Street Enforcement officers work alongside other agencies such as the Public Protection team, the Metropolitan Police Service and the DVLA to target areas of the Borough where there are crime hotspots (including fly-tipping). Clean-up events are encouraged which involve volunteers from the local community. This multi-agency approach is beneficial in terms of tackling many issues in an effective and resource efficient way. The events are funded by the London Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC).

Fly Tipping Communication

8. Fly-tipping hotspots are monitored by the Fly tipping action group and Street Enforcement officers, managed by the Neighbourhood Management Street Enforcement Manager. To raise awareness, posters are used to highlight the issue of fly tipping, residents' responsibilities and the penalties for offending. These posters are temporary and can be moved around the Borough as required. Neighbourhood Officers distribute postcards to houses undergoing renovation works (e.g. Property development, front-driveways and tree-works etc.) to ensure householders have asked privately employed contractors for evidence they have a "waste carriers" licence. Postcards are also handed out on stop and search operations facilitated by the Police and at Community Impact Days. Articles on fly-tipping have appeared in 'Safer Bromley' and the 'Environment Matters' newsletters which are sent to all residents bi-annually.

9. Neighbourhood Officers engage with 'friend's groups' within their allocated wards on the issue of fly-tipping and responds directly to any concerns they may have. Residents groups can be supplied with purple sacks for local clean up events which are provided by our Service Provider, Veolia. Sacks are left in the area and a collection requested from the street cleaning teams. The use of the purple sacks makes the waste identifiable to Veolia as being separate from fly-tipped black bags.

Fly Tipping Reporting

10. Fly-tipping is reported to the Council via Fix My Street (FMS) which is used by the public, contractors and monitored by officers. Rectification times are recorded on the system and the status of any outstanding incidents monitored by Performance Management & Business Support Team. Performance reports are generated three times per week for monitoring purposes.

11. Table 2 below shows the number of reports of fly tipping alongside the number of actual fly-tipping incidents (where the same incidents have been reported by multiple residents) and the subsequent number of incidents investigated.

Table 2

Month	2016/17		2017/18		2018 / 2019			2019 / 2020			2020 / 2021		
	Reports	Incidents	Reports	Incidents	Reports	Incidents	Incidents investigated	Reports	Incidents	Incidents investigated	Reports	Incidents	Incidents investigated
April	455	286	479	261	462	290	15	349	231	31	365	196	0
May	445	258	362	236	465	308	21	425	258	8	453	218	7
June	510	323	424	240	468	292	23	410	276	24	486	237	8
July	483	320	487	264	456	247	22	475	274	11	494	284	12
August	600	344	468	286	466	274	12	423	264	4	523	307	5
September	530	265	412	251	381	240	25	412	259	33	571	370	25
October	410	230	412	230	337	251	29	410	254	29	483	320	11
November	380	183	351	234	370	277	26	420	292	31	548	378	24
December	390	250	366	240	411	291	31	430	287	21	489	338	17
January	399	259	494	346	395	277	20	452	312	20	425	331	20
February	353	214	354	261	292	197	15	325	212	16	396	272	22
March	407	246	416	218	356	228	28	355	204	14	555	324	36
Total	5362	3178	5025	3067	4859	3172	267	4886	3123	242	5788	3575	187

12. Compared to 2019/20, the numbers in 2020 /21 increased by 242 incidents which is a rise of 14.5 %, and the investigation action taken in response to this activity fell by 55 incidents.

During the period of 2020 – 2021 the following enforcement action was taken, 22 Written warnings, 2 x £400 FPN's issued, 1 x £80 FPN's issued for littering.

From the number of incidents reported the Environmental Enforcement Officer aims to investigate 10% of the incidents reported and take the appropriate enforcement action. The reason for this drop in investigations is twofold due to the National Covid lockdowns which restricted officer's ability to attend fly tipping. The team were also redeployed for several months assisting Bromley Councils Covid response. Officers were tasked with manning Norman Park Test Centre and contacting individuals who were shielding.

A Targeted Response to Fly-tipping incidents.

13. Fly -tipping evidence gathered by the Street Enforcement officers in conjunction the Council's Geographical Information Systems generates heat maps of local fly-tipping hotspots that enables a targeted approach for education and enforcement activities and campaigns. Such examples include the "We're Watching you" fly-tipping campaign which involved advertising in the local press, Bus Shelters, Council website, distribution of postcards and other media material.

Other areas of enforcement

14. The Enforcement Team also conduct further works to assist Bromley achieve its aims of a safe, green authority. And also fall under Outcome 4 of the Public Protection and Enforcement Plan is: **'We will protect and improve the environment through custodianship enforcement'**

These workflows are assigned to three FTE Street Enforcement Officers (within the Enforcement Team) and are associated with enforcement of Highways and Green Spaces. Over time we would hope that enforcement will result in higher compliance and the reduction in reports received.

15. Table 3 below provides baseline data for the year 2020/21 covering the actions of these officers.

Table 3

	<u>2020/2021</u>
<u>BALL GAMES</u>	1
<u>ENCROACHMENT</u>	41
<u>OBSTRUCTIONS</u>	539

<u>OTHER</u>	145
<u>OVERHANGING VEGITIATION (OHV)</u>	528
<u>SIGNS</u>	158
<u>STREET TRADING</u>	48
<u>PARKS AND GREEN SPACES</u>	154
<u>VEHICLES</u>	1646

Obstructions

16. 539 reports were received by the team relating to obstructions on the public highway. The work varied from matters as small as a cone left in the road up to building materials from renovation works being stored on the highway. Enforcement officers aim to educate residents on their responsibilities and allow reasonable amount of time for the problem to be rectified prior to any formal enforcement process. This can be done by removing all items from the highway, we also offer advice on how to obtain a licence from Bromley Council allowing the building material to be store on the highway. If our advice is ignored, then enforcement action is taken. During this period the team issued six fixed penalty notices (£100 penalty) to property owners for continual wilful obstruction to the highway after verbal advice has not been complied

Other

17. Other reports are normally generated for fly tipping or the abnormal situations which do not occur often. Damage to the highway reports is a common example of the type of report we receive under this code. Enforcement will investigate this concern from cradle to grave ensuring that Bromley does not foot the bill from the damage caused. Enforcement will ascertain who caused the damage and will issue invoice to reinstate the public footpath, verge or highway that has been damaged.

Overhanging vegetation (OHV)

18. 528 reports received during the year covering vegetation which required a simple trim but also lengthy investigations into ownership of land/trees which resulted in the assistance from our legal department to ascertain legal directions. These reports can take up a lot of officer's time establishing ownership and working with the property owners to resolve the matter in hand.

Parks and green spaces.

19. Bromley Council have appointed Ward Security to assist with the investigation & deterrence of reports received relating to ASB, crime, dog attacks and missing person/child within the Borough Greenspace. Ward Security also act as the first port of call for attending out of hours illegal encampments, all officers are trained in carrying out welfare checks and are fast to respond preventing potential encampments from occurring.

Vehicles

20. 1646 reports were received last year relating to vehicles which residents felt caused nuisance and/or were believed to be abandoned. The Enforcement Team attend every report to verify if the vehicle is taxed. The team arranged for the removal of 89 vehicles that were deemed to have been abandoned and issued three Fixed Penalty Notices to individuals who were identified as being responsible for abandoning a vehicle

21. In 2020/21 the Enforcement Team have supported colleagues in loss adjustment, they assisted with the recovery of costs for 46 cases recouping a total value of £12,590.53 of public funds. These works relate to works Bromley have conducted for making good highway defects or cutting overhanging branches where the individual/s responsible failed to conduct works themselves after issuance of notices.