

Kent councils urge magistrates to take greater action on fly tippers

Today (24 August) sees the 13 Kent councils write to Magistrates Association urging greater efforts to work together to tackle waste crime, in particular to tackle those who fly tip across the county.

The letter sets out the impact fly tipping is having on the county, such as: -

- Extremely high costs to Kent taxpayers with councils carrying out fly tipping clearances and taking forward investigations;
- How councils' limited resources are being diverted from other valuable frontline services such as helping the homeless;
- The negative impact on the natural environment with many fly tips blighting countryside and local beauty spots; and
- How fly tipping is predominately taken forward by organised crime groups who are likely to be using money from fly tipping activities to fund other criminal activities.

With this in mind, the letter welcomes the opportunity for the 13 Kent councils to work with the Magistrates Association by: -

- Arranging a virtual meeting between representations from the councils and the Magistrates Association over the summer;
- Understanding how sentencing on fly tipping is determined in magistrates' courts and understand if there are local differences councils ought to factor; and
- Establishing the gap that councils need to cover to achieve greater levels of punishment to those fly tipping offenders, particularly those who are part of organised crime groups.

Councillor Nick Kenton, Chairman of the Kent Resource Partnership said: *"Before engaging with the Magistrates Association, Kent councils took forward a mini-review to see what levels of punishment were being handed to fly tippers in Kent over the past year. The results showed there was a clear gap on what maximum levels of punishment could be given compared to the actual punishments. We truly believe to stop fly tipping; greater punishment needs to be placed on those who commit these crimes. We hope working together with the Magistrates Association will better equip us to prosecuting fly tippers and keep Kent clean."*

The 13 Kent councils are working in partnership to Keep Kent Clean. To keep updated with the councils' efforts to tackle fly tipping and littering, follow **#KeepKentClean**.

ENDS

Attached: Copy of the letter sent to the Magistrates Association for reference.

Editors Notes

1. The KRP is the unique, multi-award winning waste resource partnership including all 12 of Kent's district/borough councils and Kent County Council. For reference all 13 councils are listed in alphabetical order: - Ashford Borough Council, Canterbury City Council, Dartford Borough Council, Dover District Council, Folkestone & Hythe District Council, Gravesham Borough Council, Kent County Council, Maidstone Borough Council, Sevenoaks District Council, Swale Borough Council, Thanet District Council, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.
2. The KRP (as the Kent Waste Partnership) was formed in 2007 in order to deliver the Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (KJMWMS) required of all two-tier areas in the Waste & Emissions Trading Act 2003.
3. The latest version of the KJMWMS can be found [here](#).
4. To contact the KRP, please email Paldeep Bhatti at paldeep.bhatti@kentrp.org.uk or by speaking on 01732 227128.