



# NEWS

Hertsmere Borough Council  
Civic Offices, Elstree Way  
Borehamwood  
Herts WD6 1WA

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**For immediate release**

## **Fresh appeal as new flytipping figures released**

A 22 per cent hike in flytipping incidents in Hertsmere has seen the cost of dealing with the problem continue to soar, new figures have revealed.

Hertsmere Borough Council officers investigated and removed 800 incidents of flytipping in the borough in 2016/17, which led to a bill of £35,955 for taxpayers. The number of incidents was up from 652 in the previous year, 2015/16. It brings the total number of incidents dealt with by the local authority since 2010 to nearly 3,500 and the total spent during that period to more than £160,000, which is equivalent to the cost of 18.5 months of CCTV operation or five weeks of waste recycling and collection in Hertsmere.

The figures have been released as the council continues its high-profile campaign, *Could this be yours?*, alerting people to the dangers of employing unlicensed waste carriers. Homeowners face criminal prosecution if their waste is flytipped and they have failed in their duty of care as set out in the Environment Protection Act 1990.

Councillor Seamus Quilty, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport, said: "Flytipping is on the rise across the country and in Hertsmere, we've continued to see this problem increase, despite a number of high-profile court cases and our ongoing efforts to raise awareness of the dangers of using unlicensed waste carriers.

"In the eyes of the law, if you are a homeowner who has passed your unwanted items or bags of waste to someone without a licence then you are just as culpable for the flytipping as the person who actually put it there.

"These figures indicate we still have work to do to ensure this message gets through to perpetrators and the people who employ them."

Earlier this year, a Borehamwood woman was ordered to pay £1500 in fines and costs by a magistrate after she passed her unwanted furniture to a man on Facebook and it was subsequently dumped near garages in Stanborough Avenue. It was the first case of its kind to be brought by the local authority.

Gavin Burns, Principal Environmental Health Officer, said: "Our advice is always get a receipt for any waste that you ask to be disposed of and check that the person

doing the disposing has a waste carrier's licence. If in doubt give the council's Environmental Health team a call on 020 8207 2277.”

For more information and for anyone unsure about their duties and responsibilities with regards to waste disposal take the Could this be yours? quiz by going to our website [www.hertsmere.gov.uk/couldthisbeyours](http://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/couldthisbeyours)

To check if a waste carrier has a licence visit the Environment Agency's website or by call 0300 123 4051.

The council offers a bulky waste collection for larger household items. A range of items can also be disposed of for free at the council's household waste recycling centres. To find out more go to our website [www.hertsmere.gov.uk/bulkywaste](http://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/bulkywaste)

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