



Northumberland
County Council

NCC & BTC ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

30/05/19

Introduction

- Phil Atkinson
- Employed by Northumberland County Council
- Funded for 18.5 hours per week by Blyth Town Council

Since October 2018 - BTC were the first Town Council to fund or partially fund an Environmental Enforcement Officer for extra cover. This has now been taken on by neighbouring Town Councils including:

- Ashington
- Cramlington
- West Bedlington
- Seaton Valley
- Ponteland
- Lynemouth

BTC hope to increase the funded hours to further improve the service.

Main Duties – Accumulations of Waste

- Usually within private yards or gardens.
- Attempt to deal with through education and co-operation
- Can take legal action usually through Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 - this is through the use of CPW and CPN's.
- Must be having a detrimental effect of a persistent or continuing nature on the quality of life in the locality and the behaviour must be unreasonable.



Main Duties – Fly Tipping

Fly Tipping is the Illegal disposal of waste without a waste management licence. It can be private or public land and is the land or property owner's responsibility to clear inc. costs

The punishments are:

- Fixed Penalty Notice (£400)
- Magistrates Court - Fine up to £50000 and/or 12mths Imp
- Crown Court - Unlimited fine and/or 5 Years Imp

Duty of Care:

If you have waste you must ensure that any person that takes control of your waste is licenced to do so. As a householder you must take reasonable steps to ensure that a person removing waste from your premises are authorised to do so. If they are not, this is a criminal offence, which would lead to a fine on conviction, and a fixed Penalty Notice to be introduced in near future



Main Duties - Dog Fouling

- Work alongside animal welfare to target patrols in areas of offending
- Public Spaces Protection Order covers all public spaces in Blyth meaning that it is an offence not to pick up after a dog fouls
- Usually dealt with by means of Fixed Penalty Notice (£100)
- Recent conviction at Magistrates Court (29/04/19) where offender was fined £350

Main Duties – Abandoned Vehicles

- Local Authorities must remove abandoned vehicles from both land in the open air & Roads
- The difficulty is identifying if a vehicle is actually abandoned. Unfortunately vehicles parked inconsiderately or away from the home address does not mean that they are abandoned - again comes down to education and Cooperation.



Main Duties - Litter

- Regular patrols in Blyth
- Work closely with Neighbourhood Services to identify problem areas and quickly clear
- Education and cooperation
- Prosecution - usually dealt with by way of Fixed Penalty Notice (£80)
- Recent conviction at Magistrates Court - fine & costs £350