Report on Dumb Dumpers Seminar

The Scottish Fly Tipping Forum held a seminar on 2nd December 2008.

The day included presentations from:

KSB

Kent Police

The Forestry Commission

Wicklow/Uplands Project – PURE (Protecting Uplands and Rural Environments) Ireland

Flycapture Fly tipping Website

The main points from the seminar were:

There are great benefits to be had by pooling resources to combat fly tipping crime. Andy Small from Kent Police was appointed as the Rural and Environmental Crime Co-ordinator.

The partners were:

Kent County Council, comprising a number of borough and district councils, The Environment Agency, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, The Crown Prosecution Service and Kent Police.
Previously there had been a number of barriers to enforcement which included:

- Lack of resources
- No training
- Legal assistance
- Different working practices amongst partners

The positive outcomes which helped improve enforcement methods included:

- Partnership working
- Development of a national intelligence model
- Use of legal services with environmental expertise
- Standardising of paperwork
- 'Fit for purpose' training

Ultimately their achievements were demonstrated in:

A high number of successful prosecutions
Substantial fines

High public profile which acts as a deterrent

Flycapture

What is 'Flycapture'? It is simply a web based database for LAs and the EA to record incidents of fly-tipping; the objective being to aid local authorities and the Environment Agency to tackle the problem of fly-tipping.
Each month LAs enter their data via the Environment Agency's web page, the Environment Agency data auto transfers from the National Incident Recording System, commonly known as NIRS.

The database went live on 5 April 2004. It was brought implemented in England and Wales as part of the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003 which gives wider powers to LAs, which have since been extended again. It is statutory in England and Wales to make monthly entries. It is intended that the system will improve intelligence on the nature, type and hot spots of fly-tipping.

The system was rolled out here in Scotland in February 2005 and then rolled out in Northern Ireland in February 2006

The headline stats for 07/08

Currently only around 70% of authorities are recording the figures which still make horrific reading for Scotland. 100% recording could mean a greater number of incidents than in Wales which would equate to in excess of £3m in clearance costs. This may be nearer the true figure. Until the introduction of the database information was anecdotal, however it is proving the scale of the problem is at least as big as was believed.

Figures April 2007 - March 2008

- England
  - 1 282 820 incidents
  - £73 764 481 clearance costs
- Wales
  - 62 153 incidents
  - £2 989 197 clearance costs
- Scotland
  - 46 047 incidents
  - £2 314 629 clearance costs
- Northern Ireland
  - 2 056 incidents
  - £53 215 clearance costs

This presentation highlighted the underuse of the database in Scotland. If used to its full potential, it could identify the real scale of the problem in terms of resource and flytipping hotspots. All the LAs were encouraged to record fly tipping as accurately as possible and to make annual returns. More information about this system can be accessed at flycapture@environment-agency.gov.uk.