

Meeting name: Bishops Castle LJC
Report Title : Withdrawal of Community Skip and fly tipping.
Date and time: 6th October 2011

Introduction

Further to the request from this Local Joint Committee (LJC), please find the following report as requested. This report deals with the withdrawal of the community skip service from the south west area of Shropshire, and the concerns of the LJC, that the withdrawal of the service has created a negative impact on the volume of fly tipping, in the local area.

The LJC will recall that the approved withdrawal of the community skips followed a review which identified serious problems with the service. Waste collected was sent to landfill which did not support the Councils policy to increase recycling. The sites, mainly public car parks, were impossible to control with single or two man crews and therefore open to abuse by traders to deposit business waste of various kinds. More importantly the same lack of control raised the risk of cars manoeuvring in tight spaces and coming into conflict with residents using the service, as well as the issue of residents carrying bulky items through other users and throwing material into the collection vehicle.

This also equalised service provision across the county following the lead of the other former Shropshire districts, which had ceased similar services for the same reasons several years ago.

Thus, the withdrawal of the service was: -

- 1) Historically overdue, as a number of other ex District Councils had already withdrawn the service in preparation for the Shropshire wide waste and recycling contract.
- 2) The service was incompatible with general policy of recycling and reducing waste.
- 3) The service was required to be equalised across Shropshire.

Issues since withdrawal

The skip service was withdrawn in the south west on 1st September 2009. In that time the general picture has remained static, hence: -

a) There has been no significant rise in complaints relating to fly tipping or litter, since September 2009, relating to this area. An analysis of complaints shows there has been a fluctuation in service requests ⁽¹⁾ relating to roadside litter picking but nothing that would indicate a rise in concern, service failing or sudden 'spike' in activity.

⁽¹⁾ A service request is a customer requesting a standard level of service and not a complaint.

b) No comment, complaint or concern has been raised from Town or Parish Councils in the area affected or by this LJC, since September 2009 regarding an increase in fly tipping.

There have been a minor increase in fly tipping by the Crowgate recycling centre and around two fly tips per month are experienced. The fly tips can be as diverse as left cardboard to pieces of furniture. However, this increase is not significant. The fly tips that are left are removed within two working days and investigated. Should sufficient evidence become available, then enforcement action would follow. New signs will be installed to inform and deter any potential fly tippers.

Any fly tipping complaint is always investigated and appropriate action instigated. The overall picture of fly tipping in the south west is of low level and infrequent and current service arrangements appear to meet the demand.

Shropshire Council has a good record of dealing with fly tips. The old National Indicator (NI196) score was very effective or effective.

Steve Brown
Environmental Maintenance