

**WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Planning & Environment Committee**

**Bulky Waste & Fly-tipping as requested by Cllr Mike Burtenshaw**

**1. Background:**

- 1.1 Fly-tipping in West Swindon has been persistent since the inception of the Parish Council however there has been a rise of fly-tipping incidents since March 2020. Fly-tipping is usually in four forms
- dumped waste often builder/contractor waste or improper dumping from non licensed waste carriers
  - households leaving bulky items, household waste, broken furniture in alleyways, green spaces and footpaths
  - waste that the doorstep recycling service has refused to collect
  - green waste fly-tipping – typically dumped over the back of garden fences
- 1.2 The Cleansing team spend a significant proportion of their time collecting waste. The deed between the Parish Council and Swindon Borough Council states that the Parish Council is responsible for the collection of fly-tipping where it has the *capacity* to do so. There is a variance in the interpretation of ‘capacity’ – generally Swindon Borough Council’s customer services regard this to be anything that is reported as fly-tipping in West Swindon. The Parish Council has a lower tier Waste Carrier licence which means it can carry general waste. This excludes carrying construction or demolition waste.
- 1.3 In hot spot areas, the Parish has distributed letters to local residents advising against fly-tipping. It has also posted signs in copses to discourage illegal fly-tipping. The efficiency of the Parish Team in collecting dumped items does not always promote responsible behaviour as fly-tipping can be seen as a quick and easy way to get rid of unwanted items. Despite targeted clean ups and communications about fly-tipping, some areas are repeatedly used by residents for dumping.
- 1.4 The doorstep recycling service also contributes to fly-tipping because refusal to take certain waste– most often due to presentation e.g. not in a wheelie bin, cardboard not broken down in size, generally means this waste will stay outside. Householders do not usually take it back in. Generally, the Parish Council team picks it up after it has been refused. If it is left, it is often added to and grows in size or it ends up being ‘distributed’ around the neighbourhood.

**2. Bulky Waste Collection**

- 2.1 Cllr Mike Burtenshaw has identified that the current management and delivery of Swindon Borough Council’s bulky waste collection may be contributing to the

high levels of bulky waste/domestic fly-tipping. There is a direct cost and a long waiting time for actual collection.

- 2.2 A single collection costs £30.10. The collection cost is £23.60 if you receive Council Tax Support by at least 80%. To get this concession, residents need to enter a Council Tax Support reference number during the application. They will also need to upload a copy of your Council Tax Support letter. Once booked, the charge is non-refundable. The Council has a definitive list of items it will and will not collect. If the waste is incorrectly categorised by the resident online or by customer services, it will not be collected and will not be refunded.

### **3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The cost of fly-tipping is significant both as the collection and disposal consumes resources that could be focused on other local improvements. The Parish Council staff time allocated to this is probably in the region of £35,000 per annum.
- 3.2 The Parish Council does not currently get charged by Swindon Borough Council for the disposal of waste.

### **4. Recommendations**

- 3.1 Cllr Burtenshaw is requesting that this Committee considers how to improve the collection/disposal of large household waste and reduction in fly-tipping
- 3.2 That the Committee considers the nature of fly-tipping locally and resolves to agree an approach/strategy for the management of it.

Paula Harrison  
Parish Manager