

Policy for dealing with fly tipping and rubbish in Board's watercourses and on Board's property

Rubbish in Board's watercourses can result from:-

- General litter blowing in to the drain or floating along the drain from upstream
- Flying tipping – the illegal dumping of waste

Of the two, fly tipping generally leads to the most serious problem, especially when large quantities of waste are tipped in one incident.



Rubbish can have the following detrimental effects:

- Reduce flow in the watercourse
- Pollution
- Unsightly
- Environmentally damaging

The Board do not have enforcement powers with regard to fly tipping, these rest with the Local Authority and the Environment Agency.

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Dealing with the clearance of rubbish from Board's watercourses and property:-

- In the case of a serious fly tipping incident, this should always be reported to the appropriate enforcement body, rather than attempting to deal with it internally, in case evidence is inadvertently lost, which could have been used to prosecute offenders.
- In less serious fly tipping incidents, or after being given the go-ahead by the enforcing authority, the rubbish will be removed by either:
 - Requesting that the Council's Fly Swat Team clear the waste whilst on their rounds.
 - Alternatively, if the rubbish is causing a blockage to flow, or environmental damage, it should be removed from the watercourse as soon as possible. In the case of a vehicle, the Police should first be informed as it may have been used for criminal purposes, and may well have a registered owner.
 - Rubbish can be cleared by Board's operatives, but be mindful of the Health and Safety risks. Refer to the relevant risk assessment, or if necessary undertake a specific on-site risk assessment. In all cases, gloves should be worn and good hygiene observed. Beware of sharp objects in unidentified bags of rubbish, and observe good manual handling techniques. Hazardous waste, for example asbestos, should only be moved and disposed of by a specialist contractor.
- The Board have a waste transfer license to allow them to move waste. Rubbish can be temporarily stored in the Board's yard, where a waste exemption license is in place, before disposing of in an appropriate manner.
- With regard to general rubbish in a watercourse, this would not normally be cleared unless it was in sufficient quantity to be causing a problem as outlined above. In general, litter picking of watercourses will not be undertaken.
- If the rubbish is causing a pollution incident then the Environment Agency should be informed at the earliest opportunity and the pollution contained.