



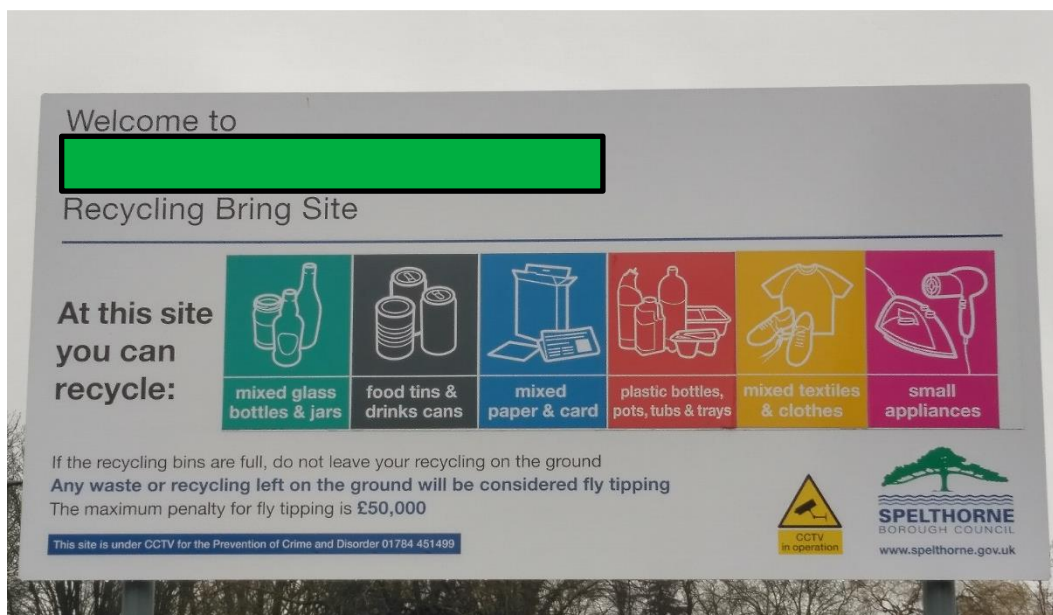
Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Consistent, Uniformed Signage at Bring Sites

Spelthorne Borough Council – Fly-tipping Intervention Grant

Spelthorne Borough Council installed **clear uniformed signage** at 12 bring sites advising residents of the types of recycling available, that fly-tipping is a crime, and that the area has potential to be monitored by CCTV to act as a permanent deterrent. To support enforcement actions the council also installed 4 **covert CCTV cameras** at 4 of the hotspots to capture evidence of offenders. The project ran for a total of 6 months and results were monitored 3 months before and after the interventions were installed. The results show a **33% decrease in fly-tips** across the 8 hotspot locations where just signage was installed and a significant reduction at the 4 hotspots where CCTV was also installed. The council has also issued **5 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) and 12 warning letters**.



(fly-tipping sign installed at bring site)

The Fly-tipping Issue

The council targeted 12 bring sites situated across the borough. Each bring site has suffered with multiple fly-tipping incidents on an almost daily basis.

The sites were predominantly experiencing fly-tips of household waste and excess recyclable materials including textiles and electricals. The council discovered, through searching through the waste, that the waste was being dumped by members of the public from the borough or neighbouring boroughs.

The Intervention

The council had previously tried anti fly tipping signage and ad hoc covert cameras that were situated in public litter bins with varying degrees of success. Litter bin cameras had previously been deployed, however due to bin usage and foxes, it was found the cameras were being knocked out of position on a regular basis.

CCTV: The council purchased 4 covert cameras that would be rotated throughout the hotspots. If the council notice a spike in fly-tipping incidents at a specific hotspot the cameras will be moved, and the area will be monitored for a two week period. The cameras were installed by a contractor and the imagery produced is of good evidential standard. The council also installed 6 BT style cabinets at their most prolific sites. A contractor installed the concrete base, the BT style cabinets and new locks to prevent easy access. The idea is that if another hotspot (without a BT style cabinet already installed) becomes prolific with fly-tipping the council can lay a concrete base and within 5 days the BT box will be installed and functioning ready for the covert CCTV.

Signage: The council installed new 2.5-meter information signs at all hotspot locations as a permanent deterrent, informing users of the types of recycling available and a clear anti fly tipping message with the CCTV symbol included. This action was taken due to a lack of consistent signage at each site and to promote a uniform message and look. A contractor printed and installed the large signage.

Partnership Working: A number of internal officers were consulted including the waste and recycling officer, community safety team and the law enforcement team.

Community Engagement: The project has been promoted to all households in the borough via the council's quarterly bulletin. The council has also promoted the bring sites via social media.

The Result

The results shown below for hotspot's 1-4 do not accurately reflect the pre-intervention monitoring period. Prior to the installation of the CCTV the council would record one instance of fly-tipping for a given period. For example, an enforcement officer would attend

the hotspot, clear the fly-tipped rubbish and add one entry to the council's fly-capture system. As the council are now able to monitor the hotspot locations via CCTV, they can now distinguish each incident and record it as a separate fly tip.

Fly tipping incidents at the bring sites with CCTV and signage have reduced despite the data showing otherwise.

The results shown for hotspots 5-12 show a mixture of results but overall, the signage has been successful in acting as a permanent deterrent. The council are aware that hotspots 6, 7, 10 and 11 have no fly-tips recorded in the post-intervention period but were chosen due to their location, the council wanted to prevent fly-tipping from the other hotspots appearing in these locations and therefore installed the new uniformed signage. The council are still experiencing a small level of incidents which is being monitored, the council believe this is due to better surveillance of the area and therefore more reporting.

Feedback from the Neighbourhood Services and the Waste and Recycling officer has been positive due to the reduction of offences across the Borough. The litter picking and fly tip removal crews have also commented that there has been a large decrease in the number of fly tip incidents at the bring site locations.

Location	Intervention	Pre-Intervention Monitoring	Post-Intervention Monitoring	Results
Hotspot 1	Covert CCTV & Improved Signage	32 2 nd July 2023-1 st October 2023	34 2 nd October 2023-31 st December 2023	Fly-tipping Reduced
Hotspot 2	Covert CCTV & Improved Signage	4 2 nd July 2023-1 st October 2023	9 2 nd October 2023-31 st December 2023	Fly-tipping Reduced
Hotspot 3	Covert CCTV & Improved Signage	13 2 nd July 2023-1 st October 2023	25 2 nd October 2023-31 st December 2023	Fly-tipping Reduced

Hotspot 4	Covert CCTV & Improved Signage	4 2 nd July 2023-1 st October 2023	5 2 nd October 2023-31 st December 2023	Fly-tipping Reduced
Hotspot 5	Improved Signage	1 2 nd July 2023-1 st October 2023	0 2 nd October 2023-31 st December 2023	100% Decrease
Hotspot 6	Improved Signage	0 2 nd July 2023-1 st October 2023	1 2 nd October 2023-31 st December 2023	100% Increase
Hotspot 7	Improved Signage	0 2 nd July 2023-1 st October 2023	0 2 nd October 2023-31 st December 2023	No Change
Hotspot 8	Improved Signage	4 2 nd July 2023-1 st October 2023	1 2 nd October 2023-31 st December 2023	75% Decrease
Hotspot 9	Improved Signage	14 2 nd July 2023-1 st October 2023	9 2 nd October 2023-31 st December 2023	35% Decrease
Hotspot 10	Improved Signage	0 2 nd July 2023-1 st October 2023	0 2 nd October 2023-31 st December 2023	No Change

Hotspot 11	Improved Signage	0 2 nd July 2023-1 st October 2023	2 2 nd October 2023-31 st December 2023	100% Increase
Hotspot 12	Improved Signage	10 2 nd July 2023-1 st October 2023	5 2 nd October 2023-31 st December 2023	50% Decrease

Data Source: Fly-capture

Other Relevant Data

Enforcement: The council does not automatically default to FPN's for minor fly-tipping offences but instead issues written warnings. Since introducing the interventions, the council has issued 12 warning letters and 5 FPNs as a result of evidence captured by the CCTV.

Feedback

What went well?

All bring sites now look far more professional and portray the Council in a better light. The signage is uniform, easy to understand and has definitely had a positive impact on the level of fly-tipping recorded. The hotspot's which have shown no change confirm that the fly-tipping has not been displaced and the signage acts as a permanent deterrent.

The permanent BT style cabinet hides have worked really well as they have not been interfered or tampered with unlike the previously trialled litter bins.

What would you do differently?

The council initially had issues with how they attached the covert cameras to the doors of the BT style cabinets as the adhesive used did not always stick and the council have had to revisit the sites to reapply more. The council will look at a more permanent solution.

What key information would you pass on so others can deliver this project?

The BT style cabinets came with a triangle style lock which is easily accessible via a key purchased from a hardware store. We employed a locksmith to change these to a key style lock to ensure further security.

Equipment Inventory

Item	Supplier	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Value
Lithium Batteries	Sheild Batteries	n/a	8	£3,982.96
Metal BT style cabinets	Drain Store	n/a	6	£3,660.00
Bring Site Metal Signage	Sign Media	n/a	19	£800.00
Covert Cameras	VIPA	n/a	4	£1,695.00
Cabinet Locks	Lock24	n/a	6	£1,946.30

Contact Details

Name & Position – Martin Cole, Neighbourhoods Manager

Email – m.cole@spelthorne.gov.uk

Defra's Fly-Tipping Intervention Grant: The Fly-tipping Intervention Grant supported projects trialling approaches and interventions to tackle fly-tipping. Administered by Rural Payments Agency (RPA) on behalf of Defra, this grant provided capital funding for projects at known fly-tipping hot-spots that showed the potential for improving infrastructure, raising awareness, and supporting enforcement activity.