



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



# Improving the Street Scene

## Thanet District Council – Fly-tipping Intervention Grant

Thanet District Council **gated each end of an alleyway** that they recognised to be a hotspot and created a **community garden** in the alleyway for residents to develop and maintain. To support enforcement activities, the council **installed CCTV** and implemented a **Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)** as well as educating residents with new **signage and flyers** covering the penalties for fly-tipping and breaching the PSPO. The project has been a success, the council have seen a **43% decrease in fly tips reported** in the area and have issued **six fixed penalty notices**.



Fly-tipped waste at hotspot location

## The Fly-tipping Issue

By improving the street scene and reducing incidents of fly-tipped waste, the physical environment and communal areas will look pleasant and cleaner, which will encourage a sense of pride and community within the locality.

The council decided to target one hotspot area which is an alleyway that runs behind properties where fly-tipping is most prevalent. There is a high density of housing in this district with many transience and insecure tenancies; **bulky household items such as mattresses and sofas** are most common to be fly-tipped at this hotspot.



Hotspot location: Alleyway

## The Intervention

All the items were procured using suppliers with whom they already have an existing relationship. The equipment was mostly easy to use and implement, especially the gating, the CCTV was complex due to the geographical locations; the CCTV location did not allow for distribution of signals via Wi-Fi and therefore required fibre circuits needed to be installed. This did not impact delivery of the project but incurred a significantly higher cost for the installer.

**Gates:** Gating the alleyway will have no impact on the public right of way, and by limiting access to residents only, will prevent access for fly-tipping for all non-residential people.



**Community Garden:** Beautifying the area with a community garden will provide somewhere for residents to relax and socialise. Taking inspiration from other areas in the country who have created a community alley garden, the space will be lined with plants, shrubbery, insect hotels, bird feeders and cages. The alleyway is accessible from residents' back garden gates, which means that they will not need to use the end alley gates to gain access for enjoyment.

**CCTV:** The council already have existing CCTV cameras covering other areas of the hotspot but in order to target this area of the hotspot the council installed a camera that covered the entire length of the alleyway. This will act as a deterrent to any resident still willing to fly-tip behind their property and will allow the council to identify and take enforcement action on any that do.

**Public Space Protection Order (PSPO):** The purpose of the PSPO is to hold residents and landlords accountable for waste outside their properties and therefore gives additional enforcement allowances, which will discourage littering, fly tipping, waste hoarding and improper disposal of waste in the area. The development of the PSPO required collaboration and agreement from a range of partners including the council's corporate management team and elected members, Kent Police and the Police and Crime commissioner for Kent and the county council.

A communication plan was developed for the PSPO, and a public consultation was delivered between 21/11/2022-10/12/2022 with a result of 92% of respondents agreed with the proposal and 88% believed this would have a positive impact on the quality of life for the local community. The council implemented the PSPO in January 2023.

**Signs/Flyers:** The council installed new signage throughout the hotspot area and sent flyers to inform residents of the new PSPO and CCTV camera coverage, including information on penalties for fly-tipping and breaching the PSPO.

**Community Engagement:** The council have completed extensive community engagement regarding the PSPO, including local press outputs and door stopping in the target area with pictograph information for non-English speakers. The council have worked closely with the local tenants and residents' association (ARTRA) who have led on engagement regarding the use and design of the space and have organised numerous community events for input and implementation of the community garden. They also held ongoing events at the location to deep clean the alleyway.

## The Result

The programme has created an increased level of trust in the council. The concept of **"You asked, we did"** has been applied resulting in an increase of community reassurance. The interventions have created a buzz of excitement, not just for now but for the future development and growth of the space. Some feedback from the community has been provided, see below:

**“Everything has been very positive - and personally I’m thrilled, it completely changes the vibe of the area. Thanks again for your support and championing of this project”**

In terms of fly-tipping, the council have noticed a small decrease in the incidents but have noticed increased reporting of when incidents occur. Waste collections have stabilised, and incidents of waste deposited within the boundaries of properties have decreased as have reports of side waste, showing that residents are complying with the conditions of the new PSPO.

Location	Intervention	Pre- Intervention Monitoring	Post- Intervention Monitoring	Results
Hotspot Area (Alleyway)	CCTV, Community Garden, Gates, Community engagement, Flyers & PSPO	175  (Fly-tipping reports)  1 <sup>st</sup> October 2022- 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	87  (Fly-tipping reports)  1 <sup>st</sup> March 2023-1 <sup>st</sup> June 2023	<b>43% Decrease</b>

**Data Source:** Northgate Public Protection M3

## Other Relevant Data

**Enforcement** - One success from the project is the increase of community input (including providing reports in relation to perpetrators). The council have issued six fixed penalty notices since March 2023 in relation to breaches to the PSPO and as a result of installing CCTV to capture the footage; 3 of those paid in full, with 3 outstanding, and the council have information that has allowed them to develop 3 case files for additional prosecutions.

**Anti-social Behaviour** - The installation of new CCTV cameras, signs, and the implementation of a PSPO has also reduced and prevented other issues of anti-social behaviour in the general public areas of which children and families use on a daily basis.

## Feedback

**What went well?,**

The council’s fly-tipping reduction strategy is going to be redesigned to reflect not just the success of this project but to expand the concept into other areas of delivery. The team are beginning to receive requests for similar projects across the district.

Community engagement has been most successful, and volunteers are now participating on a weekly basis to improve the site, they have arranged two separate litter picking/community cleaning events without any input from the council. Local arts groups

have reached out to ARTRA and throughout this year will be developing art-based installations and sculpture to enhance the space.

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

The council have struggled with some of the conditions of grant requirements, in particular the authority's ability to evidence spend. The council would recommend that any authorities wishing to apply for future grants pay particular attention to return requirements and ensure that finance managers have systems in place to provide the evidence of the type and format required within the grant agreement. This has been particularly difficult for this authority.

Key learning from the project is that early consultation with residents is critical to success. An ability to not just take on the views of residents but to tailor outcomes based upon requests from the community are fundamental. The council have also found that communications tailored to different cohorts such as pictographs for those with no written English has positively increased the reputation of the council as an inclusive organisation.

## Equipment Inventory

Item	Supplier	Quantity	Total Value
360 Vision CCTV & installment	BT PLC	1	£24,089
Bespoke Gates	Clima Gate Railing & Fencing	4	£9,960
Mechanical coded locks		4	
Hydraulic gate closers		4	
Signage Covex & Aluminium	Thanet District Council Printing Services	40	£213.34
Steel Signage	Clima	2	
Design works of community garden	OKRA Studio CIC	1	

Bespoke potting/storage unit	OKRA Studio CIC	1	
Building supplies/materials	Travis Perkins	1000	
Plants, bulbs, seeds, pots, planters, furniture	Youngs Nurseries	1500	

## Contact Details

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**Defra's Fly-Tipping Intervention Grant:** The Fly Tipping Intervention Grant supported projects trialling approaches and interventions to tackle fly-tipping. Administered by WRAP 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.