

<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>
Epping Forest and Commons	<b>7 July 2014</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Annual report of Fly tipping and Waste disposal 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Superintendent of Epping Forest SEF 16/14	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Summary</b>	
<p>This report updates your Committee on the number of fly tips and the quantity of litter and rubbish removed from Epping Forest in the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014. The report also updates your Committee on the cost of disposal of the waste removed from the Forest.</p> <p>There have been 666 fly tips recorded on Forest land which vary from a single black sack of house waste to lorry loads of builders waste; it also includes fly tips of hazardous waste such as asbestos and tyres.</p> <p>Over 325 tonnes of waste have been removed from the Forest comprising of over 160 tonnes taken to London waste, over 100 tonnes of general waste disposed of in skips, over 50 tonnes of mixed recycling and 4.6 tonnes of tyres.</p> <p>The total cost of removing waste from Epping Forest in this reporting year was £212,213.58 made up of £36,156.06 for general waste, £5,066.26 for recycling, £8,602.88 for hazardous waste and £162,388.38 in staff costs.</p>	
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>	
Members are asked to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive the report</li> </ul>	

## Main Report

### Background

1. Fly-tipping is 'the illegal deposit of any waste onto land i.e. waste dumped or tipped on a site with no licence to accept waste'. Fly-tipping is illegal and in the UK waste comes under controls that impose a duty to ensure that waste is disposed of properly.
2. The number of fly-tipping incidents on Forest has, for many years followed the national trends and had fallen by 39.36% in the years 2011 to 2013. There has now been a 21% increase this year whilst the national average is still falling. The costs associated with the disposal of waste have however

increased each year in line with the government "Landfill Tax Escalator"., which rises by £8/net per year. This charge was introduced in 2007 at £48 tonne and has risen every year to the current level of £72 tonne.

3. There are widespread industry concerns that the Landfill Tax Escalator and increased restrictions on landfill disposal are encouraging less scrupulous companies to evade their responsibilities by fly-tipping. This is evidenced at Epping Forest by the increase in the number of larger commercial fly tips that are being dumped on the Forest.
4. In a bid to reduce the number of fly tips which occur, several measures are taken by Forest Keepers, in line with national advice, crime numbers are requested from the police for all fly tips. This is to help raise the profile of fly tipping in police crime figures. A prosecution is always taken forward if sufficient evidence or willing witnesses are available. A mobile CCTV camera has been purchased to try and catch some of the offenders and is being deployed at various sites where fly tips are known to commonly occur. Installation is carried out in accordance with the City Of London guidance under the DPA 1998 and the CCTV Code of Practice. The signage required under the code appears to have a similar effect to the actual presence of a camera. Also your Committee approved a reward scheme at your meeting of 12 May 2008.
5. As well as fly tipping a lot of waste is generated by visitors to the Forest, we currently have 65 litter bins across the Forest, mostly in, or close to, car parks. These are emptied as often as current resources allow. We also have a team of 10 litter pickers (6 full time equivalents) who pick litter in the Forest and on the roadsides where drivers discard large amounts of litter as they pass through the Forest.
6. The other major waste problem is the dumping of hazardous waste such as asbestos, tyres or unknown chemical and oils. These types of waste not only requires costly, specialist disposal but can have an environmental impact on the Forest.

### **Current Position**

7. Since the 1960s, littering has increased by 500% according to 'Litterbugs', a recent Policy Exchange and Campaign to protect Rural England (CPRE) report. The latest Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) statistics show that in England there were 711,000 incidents of fly tipping in 2012/13. This represents a decrease of 4% from 2011/12. However, incidents of fly tipping on footpaths and bridleways has increased by 10%.
8. The Visitor Survey records that over three quarters of all visitors felt that standard of cleanliness and maintenance are Good or Excellent. However, of those reporting 9.8% raised nuisance concerns regarding litter.
9. At present four waste streams are employed in the disposal of the various types of waste that are deposited on the Forest. Litter and general waste is

taken by our own litter vehicle to the “London Waste” incinerator site. In the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 167.82 tonnes of waste was taken to the London Waste site at a cost of £24,023.52. **See Table 1 & 2 below**

10. Fly tips are dealt with in various ways depending on the size and content of the fly tip. Small fly tips are disposed of with the litter. Larger fly tips are either loaded onto a lorry and taken straight to London Waste or brought into the Warren yard and placed in skips. There were 666 fly tips recorded on Epping Forest during the period of this report. **See Table 3 below**
11. The skips are serviced by a waste disposal company Bywaters. There are also general waste skips at Jubilee Yard (Chingford Golf Course) and Aldersbrook Road changing rooms. During the period under report 102.64 tonnes of general waste has been disposed of through this waste stream at a cost of £12,132.54 **See Table 1 & 2 below**
12. Recycling is disposed of using enclosed skips which are also serviced by Bywaters; one is sited at the Warren and the other at Aldersbrook Road. The litter picker team and other members of staff separate out recycling. During the period under report 50.78 tonnes of recycling have been disposed of at a cost of £5,066.26 **See Table 1 & 2 below**
13. The disposal of hazardous waste requires specialist contractors to carry out legitimate disposal. There have been 15 fly tips containing hazardous waste (not tyres) in the period under report. These have been dealt with by City of London approved contractors at a cost of £7,216. Tyres are collected by Epping Forest staff and brought to the Warren where they are stored in a 35 cubic metre storage container. This is taken away by a waste disposal company when full. One full container has been taken away in the current year at a cost of £1,386.88.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

14. The removal of waste from Forest land supports the City Together Strategy theme ‘A World Class City which protects, promotes and enhances our environment. This is linked to the associated Open Spaces Strategic Aim “Provide safe, secure and accessible Open Spaces and services for the benefit of London and the Nation”.

## **Implications**

15. **Finance:** The total cost of waste disposal in Epping Forest in 2013/14 amounted to £49,825.20. These costs are met in full from local risk.
16. The Conservators employ eleven members of staff to work specifically on litter collection, comprising one full time litter cart driver and 6 full time equivalent litter picking staff at an annual cost of £162,388.38 The Litter team are also assisted when necessary by the Forest Craftsman team with the removal of large or heavy fly tips.

17. The continued increase in littering across Epping Forest has prompted a review of current litter picking arrangements and litter bin provision.
18. The continued increase in littering across Epping Forest as outlined in recent national studies and echoed in local assessments and the level of public feedback has prompted a widespread review of the current litter picking arrangements and litter bin provision across the Forest.

## **Conclusion**

19. With costs currently running at £212, 213.58, some 5% of the overall Epping Forest operating budget is currently focused on meeting the costs of waste management. Apart from the emptying of litter bins, the major of the cost is associated with addressing the poor and in many cases criminal behaviour of those visiting the Forest. On littering, visitor feedback indicates that more coordination across teams and with Local Authority partners is required, together with a further investment in staffing; enforcement and litter bin provision to reduce overall litter levels. A review of current litter services will be the subject of a further report to your Committee.
20. On fly tipping, staff continue to cooperate with Local Authority partners and Essex and Metropolitan Police Services on proposals to increase 'enviro-crime' detection and prosecution rates. In addition, staff at Epping Forest continue to implement National Fly Tipping Prevention Group's framework which includes guidance on using crime number collection; reward schemes and pilots using more sophisticated covert cameras to increase the number of successful prosecutions for fly tipping.

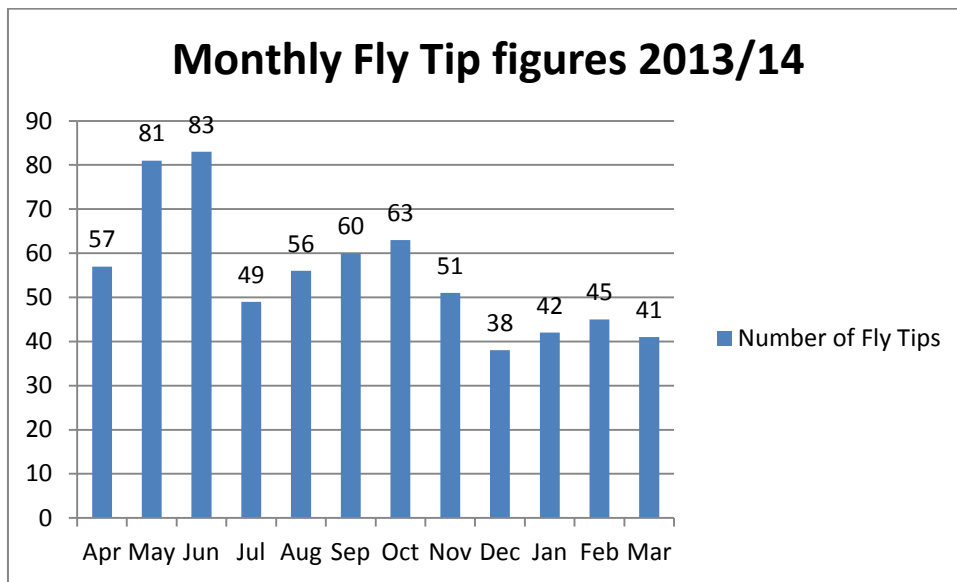
**Table 1**

<i>Month</i>	<i>London Waste</i>	<i>Bywaters Waste</i>	<i>Bywaters Recycling</i>	<i>Total tonnage</i>
April	9.98	9.54	4.00	23.52
May	13.14	8.98	5.00	27.12
June	26.72	9.78	4.00	40.5
July	17.64	5.34	5.00	27.98
August	15.82	5.78	2.00	23.6
September	13.30	11.5	4.28	29.08
October	10.94	10.08	4.00	25.02
November	11.84	3.88	4.00	19.72
December	10.24	6.48	5.50	22.22
January	10.48	16.1	4.00	30.58
February	13.68	4.48	3.00	21.16
March	14.04	10.7	6.00	30.74
	167.82	102.64	50.78	321.24
Tyre Skip				4.6
			<b>Total tonnes</b>	325.84

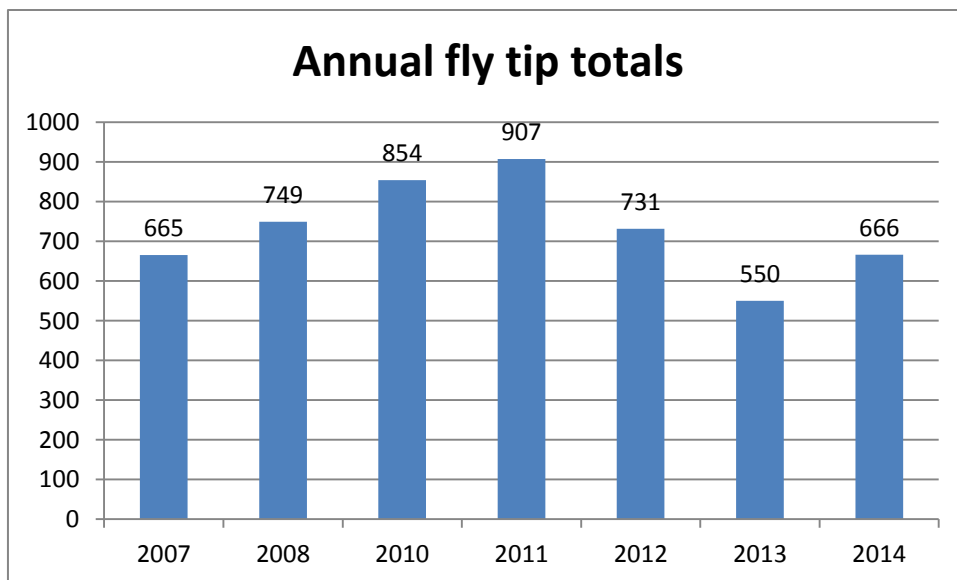
**Table 2**

<i>Month</i>	<i>London Waste £</i>	<i>Bywaters £ Waste</i>	<i>Bywaters £ Recycling</i>	<i>Total Month</i>
April	£1,844.70	£955.83	£385.36	£3,185.89
May	£1,830.51	£1,150.92	£481.70	£3,463.13
June	£3,912.57	£990.81	£385.36	£5,288.74
July	£2,401.98	£1,051.77	£578.40	£4,032.15
August	£2,316.84	£595.69	£137.82	£3,050.35
September	£1,959.51	£1,150.92	£385.38	£3,495.81
October	£1,558.32	£1,236.66	£385.40	£3,180.38
November	£1,159.56	£490.67	£416.20	£2,066.43
December	£1,590.57	£940.28	£561.72	£3,092.57
January	£1,381.59	£2,028.92	£416.20	£3,826.71
February	£1,906.62	£495.96	£422.57	£2,825.15
March	£2,160.75	£1,044.11	£510.15	£3,715.01
	£24,023.52	£12,132.54	£5,066.26	£41,222.32
			Tyre Skip	£1,386.88
			Asbestos	£7,216.00
			<b>Total cost</b>	£49,825.20

**Table 3**



**Table 4**



**Appendices**

- None

**Keith French**

Head Forest Keeper

T: 02085325310

E: keith.french@cityoflondon.gov.uk