

FLY-TIPPING
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TOTAL FOCUS WEEK, MERTHYR TYDFIL
13th – 17th June 2011

INTRODUCTION

Our initiative uses a 3 part approach to fighting fly-tipping on the ground – Enforcement, Engagement and Education. This method of working is best seen through our Total Focus Campaigns.

Working with our partners (local authorities, the police and fire services, Keep Wales Tidy, Groundwork Wales etc) we target an area

'Total Focus' campaigns aim to show that partners are working together to fight fly-tipping. They demonstrate that the regulatory authorities, businesses and residents are pulling together to clean up an area and fight environmental crime. Likely elements of a campaign could be:

- Waste carrier stop checks (Enforcement)
- Pollution prevention visits (Enforcement)
- Community skips and clean ups (Engagement)
- Environmental improvements to public spaces (Engagement)
- Roadshows in DIY stores and builders merchants (Education)
- Articles in local press (Education)



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Duty of Care Advice – Gurnos Estate
Tuesday 14th June 2011 10.00 – 12.00 hrs

- Partners – FtAW (VRP) Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Merthyr Valley Homes.
- Visited residents of Cypress Close, Crab Apple Close and Arbulus Close (approx 100 houses)
- FtAW gave out duty of care leaflets and spoke to residents about using registered waste carriers
- MTCBC gave out Waste Services Newsletter giving information on bulky waste disposal, recycling etc
- Merthyr Valleys Homes gave out leaflets on anti social behaviour
- Spoke to approx 60% of residents at homes visited, leaflets left if no-one in.
- Area of land opposite school identified as possible project for the future to work with the community to create a better place. NG to discuss with Communities First, Merthyr Valley Homes and possibly Groundwork.
- Gary Inight, Norma Greene, Katie Fletcher of FtAW; Ian Akehurst of Merthyr valley Homes; Drew Walters and Chris Jones of MTCBC



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**Bacon Butty Event - Pant Industrial Estate, Merthyr Tydfil
Wednesday 16th June 2011, 0730 – 1130hrs**

Robert Price Builders Merchants
Jasonics Builders Merchants

Event well received at both premises by managers Gary Shillingbeer and Mark Godfrey respectively. Also the staff at The Snackbar situated outside Robert Price.

All together around 17 different builders were approached and took part in a 10 minute survey. In general most were aware of their Duty of Care responsibilities. A number of Registered Waste Carrier application forms were given out with the Duty of Care Booklets, introductory letter and fact sheet. Obviously some stated they were too busy to take part. Unfortunately the weather was unkind to us as it rained for a period of time, unlike the day before when the sun shone and the venue was a lot busier.

I paid The Snackbar £31.50 for the Bacon Butty sales. The VRP Ftw Banner was a success and placed at prominent positions drawing a number of comments and acted as a point of conversation.

All together a successful day had by all who took part.



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Duty of Care Advice – Pontmorlais
Wednesday 15th June 2011 0930 – 1500 hrs

The event was a partnership between Com 1st Town and Park, MTCBC Tidy Towns Team, Environmental Health Officer, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and FtAW (VRP).

- A skip was made available on the day for only those who are residents in the Pontmorlais area.
- Fliers explaining the event were given out to residents and businesses prior to the event
- The activities on the day were aimed at informing the public and businesses of their responsibilities regarding the correct disposal of their waste. Leaflets were available in English, Welsh, Polish and Portuguese.
- Envirovan was set up in High Street for the morning, giving information to visitors.
- 42 residential properties were visited and given information on Duty of Care, waste collection and recycling
- 8 properties were identified as requiring bins
- 7 businesses signed up for a waste collection contract with MTCBC
- 3 mattresses, 1 chair, 2 vacuum cleaners and 6 bags of rubbish were collected from Tram Road and High Street



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**Litter and the Law Awareness Raising/ Litter Pick
McDonalds, Cyfarthfa Retail Park, Merthyr Tydfil Thursday 16th June 2011**

The event was a partnership between Fly Tipping Action Wales, VRP; Keep Wales Tidy and staff from McDonalds

- Litter and the Law leaflets were given out to customers to raise awareness of the law regarding litter and relevant fines.
- Two customers seen throwing litter from their car were asked to pick it up.
- Leaflets were given to staff to give out to customers using the drive thru.
- A litter pick was carried out along the perimeter path of Cyfarthfa Retail Park and along the footpath opposite the Park. 10 bags of rubbish were collected.



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Operation Valet – Vehicle Stop Checks
Rhydycar Leisure Centre, Merthry Tydfil
Thursday 16th June 2011, 0930 – 1400hrs

Partners - Fly Tipping Action Wales (VRP), Environment Agency – South Wales Police – British Transport Police – VOSA - Benefits Agency - Local Authority – CCTV, Trading Standards and Environmental Health

- The Operation was aimed at preventing/reducing scrap metal thefts and fly-tipping in the county borough of Merthyr Tydfil, whilst providing reassurance and giving a strong message by all agencies involved that such crimes will not be tolerated in this area. The operation will target waste carriers and other vehicles that could be used in connection with such offences
- Indications and feedback from all agencies involved state this was a very successful operation..
 - Twenty vehicles were pulled over and escorted to a hidden assessment compound behind Rhydycar Leisure Centre, where different agencies carried out investigations into the legitimacy of their occupants' trade, the legality of their vehicles and of the loads being carried.
 - As a result of being questioned by a benefits officer, four people surrendered benefits they were claiming on-the-spot and declared themselves self employed.
 - Eight businesses stopped by officers also failed to comply with Trading Standards regulations.
 - Three vehicles were seized from people who had no or insufficient insurance to drive them for business purposes.
 - The owners of 14 un-roadworthy vehicles were issued with prohibition notices.
 - One company was reported for allowing toxic waste to be taken from its premises without a valid license.



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The system used by South Wales Police of using Motor Cycles, Traffic and Panda Cars was in effect a bomb burst search system looking for suspect vehicles from all around Merthyr Tydfil which was very successful.



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Taff Trail, Aberfan Clean Up

Partners – FtAW (VRP), Keep Wales Tidy, MTCBC Tidy Towns Team

- This stretch of the Taff Trail was identified by Keep Wales Tidy and Sustrans as a problem area where houses back on to the cycle paths and fly tipping occurs.
- Risk Assessment completed by Keep Wales Tidy
- A litter pick was carried out along the Taff Trail from the leisure centre to the end of Moy Road. One lorry load of litter was collected much of which was drinks bottles and cans. Two areas of the Glamorgan canal were clogged with rubbish which was cleared.



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Morlais Brook Litter Pick
Friday 17th June 1pm -3pm

- Partners - Town and Park Communities First, FtAW (VRP), Keep Wales Tidy, MTCBC Tidy Towns Team, Adref Homeless Shelter and MTCBC Youth Services
- Risk Assessment completed by Keep Wales Tidy
- FtAW worked with volunteers to clean up a footpath and area adjacent to Morlais Brook.
- The area was heavily littered with drinks cans, bottles, general waste, and needles. Items of furniture had been fly tipped over a bank.

