



RHONDDA CYNON TAF TOTAL FOCUS WEEK

February 2012

A multi-agency Total Focus Week campaign will bring together partner agencies of Welsh Government funded initiative, Fly-tipping Action Wales to tackle fly-tipping in the county. Latest figures show that 41,750 cases were recorded across Wales (01 April 2009 – end March 2010) costing Welsh tax payers more than £2 million to clean up.

The campaign is part of the £25 million Valleys Regional Park project, an initiative funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Welsh Government. Through the project, Fly-tipping Action Wales is working with nine local authorities to help make The Valleys a cleaner and greener place for people to live and work.

Fly-tipping Action Wales will work with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and other partner agencies, including Keep Wales Tidy, RCT Homes and South Wales Police on a series of activities throughout the Total Focus week.

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.

'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)

Taff Trail Bike Patrols

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Enforcement Officers carried out patrols of the Taff Trail on their bikes, noting any litter or fly-tipping. Regular patrols are carried out by the officers and PCSO's to monitor the trail.



Letters from FtAW were delivered, advising of the dangers and consequences of fly-tipping. Advice was given on how to dispose of waste legally, safely and responsibly and also how to report incidents of fly-tipping.



Natalie Green (FAR) and Norma Greene (FtAW) speak to residents in Fernhill

A community day focusing on waste awareness is now being planned together with a cleanup of the embankment and creating a growing area on a patch of derelict land that is currently being used for fly-tipping.

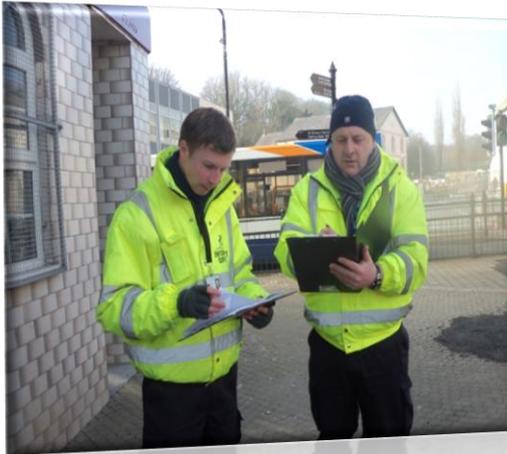
Duty of Care Advice to Residents in Fernhill

A bridle path behind houses at Fernhill was being subjected to fly-tipping. Fly Tipping Action Wales (FtAW) worked with Fernhill Association of Residents (FAR) to visit residents living nearby who were affected by the fly-tipping.



Commercial premises waste surveys, Aberdare, Treorchy, Porth

FtAW and Enforcement officers from Rhondda Cynon Taf visited commercial premises in Aberdare, Treorchy and Porth to check that they had adequate contracts in place for disposing of their waste safely, legally and responsibly.



Eleven proprietors were spoken to in Aberdare and most had adequate systems in place for recycling their waste. Only one required a follow up visit to advise on how to dispose of waste.



Thirty commercial properties were visited in Porth and Treorchy to check that they had adequate waste collection systems in place.

RCT Homes Open Day and Litter Pick at Rhydyfelin

FtAW joined RCT Homes, RCTCBC, Keep Wales Tidy and residents at Glanfelin Flats, Rhydyfelin on 14th February 2012 to carry out a litter pick and give advice on disposing of waste responsibly.



Advice to Customers at B&Q

On Sunday 16th February FtAW were at B&Q in Pontypridd, advising customers of their Duty of Care to dispose of waste safely, legally and responsibly.



With Spring around the corner, householders carrying out DIY and gardening projects need to ensure they know how to get rid of their waste responsibly. If they use someone else to take their rubbish away, they need to check where it is going and that they are registered waste carriers.

Waste Carrier Vehicle Checks



FtAW organised a multi agency operation at the VOSA site, Llantrisant to check that waste carrying vehicles were operating legally. South Wales Police, British Transport Police, Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs, UK Border Agency and Rhondda

Cynon Taf County Borough Council Enforcement Officers joined FtAW in stopping and checking four vehicles.

All vehicles checked were found to be legal and carrying all necessary documentation.

Advice to Customers at Builders Merchants

FtAW were at Travis Perkins Builders Merchants in Pontypridd to speak to customers about carrying waste materials and advising them how to apply to be a registered waste carrier.

Richie Jones, FtAW's Construction and Demolition waste officer spoke to 18 customers and gave out 3 Registered Waste Carrier Licence application forms.