



Litter

A cleaner neighbourhood. We all want it. We can all help to achieve it.

Litter damages the appearance of our streets and public places. It also attracts vermin and can spread disease.

Areas afflicted by littering can appear to be neglected, which in turn, can discourage others from taking a pride in their surroundings, leading to further damage to the quality of our environment.

We believe that, by tackling litter and people who litter, we can help ensure that this does not happen.

We need your help too.

WHAT IS LITTER?

Litter includes the obvious things like crisp packets, left-over fast food and fast food wrappings, discarded chewing gum and similar items.

A lot of people don't realise that, according to legal definitions, it can also

include small quantities of bagged domestic waste, dog fouling, cigarette butts, syringes and many other items.

Litter can come from a wide variety of sources including:

- retail shops and take-aways and their customers.
- dog-walkers and stray dogs.
- the night-time economy (especially in areas around fast-food outlets).
- domestic waste that is either badly stored, put out for collection too early, or on the wrong day.
- waste put out for collection but not contained in the proper receptacle.
- ordinary people going about their daily business.

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

Litter is unsightly and spoils the appearance of our environment. If it is not removed, an area can quickly take on a run-down appearance, becoming more unsightly and discouraging others from taking care of the environment, starting a spiral of decline.

Removal is expensive, as is dealing with the wider consequences of vermin and ill-health and disease that can arise.

Litter can have a bad effect on the

appearance of an area, and this can have economic consequences; nobody wants to visit, live in or go shopping in a dirty and neglected neighbourhood.

As a result, businesses lose out, and lose out, shops and businesses close-up and move out, there are fewer jobs, with knock-on effects for everyone who lives there.

WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT IT?

Waveney District Council is responsible for the collection of litter from any area of public land within the district. This includes litter in or around public ponds & lakes.

We have scheduled collections across the district but in addition will respond to any reports that suggest a clearance is required.

This includes:

- cleansing of dog fouling from footpaths.
- provision, maintenance and emptying of street litterbins.
- removal, in emergencies, of any spillages, dead animals, discarded syringes or similar litter.

We also have a variety of powers to take legal action against landowners and the people who cause litter to help encourage a more responsible approach to preventing the problem.

These powers have been strengthened recently but the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

This allows us to deal with litter offenders by using Fixed Penalty Notices. (The level of the Fixed Penalty in the Waveney District is currently £80).

Legal powers available to the Council include:

- requiring landowners to clear their land where it has become littered
- requiring people running fast food businesses to provide litter bins and to clear up litter generated by their business
- issuing **Fixed Penalty Notices** to people who cause litter (currently **£80**)
- prosecuting people who litter (max fine **£1000**)
- requiring landowners to clear litter from land where it provides food or harborage for vermin
- requiring the joint owners of privately owned common courtyards and passageways to clear litter and refuse.

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?

You can help us keep Waveney District tidy by disposing of your rubbish responsibly, using the facilities provided.

If there are no litterbins in the area, please take your litter home with you.

CONTACTING US

If you wish to report that an area of land requires a clearance, please telephone 01502 562111 giving details of its location, what nature of the problem, the amount of litter and the details of anyone you saw causing the littering (car registration numbers for example).

We will investigate the circumstances and take appropriate action by arranging for the land to be cleared and/or by investigating to find out who is responsible, and taking appropriate action to get it cleared and try to prevent a recurrence.

WHAT ABOUT FLY-TIPPING?

Fly-tipping is like littering but usually involves the illegal deposit of waste on a larger scale.

The difference between littering and fly-tipping can be difficult to decide; however, since we also deal with fly-tipping, the difference is academic. You only have to make one call to get something done about it, whatever it is.

If you want to know more about fly-tipping and waste disposal, we have other leaflets similar to this one, which provide greater detail on these areas of waste control.

We also have leaflets that give details of the things we do to control dog fouling and stray dogs.

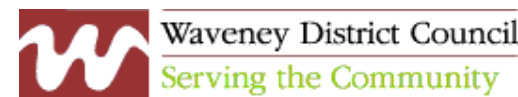
If you would like any of these other leaflets, they may be downloaded from our website at www.waveney.gov.uk

CONSULTATION

We would like to know what you think about littering and how we deal with it.

If you would like to make a comment, write to us at the address given below, or use the feedback form on our website at www.waveney.gov.uk

Supported by:



Issued by: Waveney District Council, Town Hall,
High Street, Lowestoft NR32 1HS
(01502) 523117
July 2006

