

9th March 2016

Deteriorating Council Services in Westcourt Ward - Waste Removal\Fly Tipping

Update

References:

- A. Residents Report – Deteriorating Council Services in Westcourt Ward – Waste Removal\Fly Tipping dated 7th March
- B. Meeting with residents and Mr Deitrich-Coke on site dated 23rd February

Background

Over the last year the volume of rubbish and number of rubbish dumps on council and other property in the area bounded by Freeman Rd, Bourne Rd, Cruden Rd and Medhurst Cres in the Westcourt Ward has grown. The aim of this update is to supplement information already provided at reference A.

Recent events

Subsequent to reference A and B, On Wednesday 9th March at 08:20 AM a council worker reported to residents that the complaint about topsoil and rubbish at point C had been dealt with. He arrived on the doorstep in an empty council truck capable of carrying about a tonne of rubbish and carrying two other workers.



Figure 1 Point C at 0840 on 9th March

The photo at figure 1 shows topsoil and various other pieces have been moved to one side and the area appears to have been swept by hand. The photograph was taken 20 minutes after it was reported “clear”.

Referring to the map below, which shows the location of the most common dumps at points B, C, D, E, F, G, I and J in the access way the dumps at these points remain unattended. Appendix 1 is a gallery of photographs showing these dumps taken on 9th March at 08:45 AM. These show little or no change and also rubbish seems to be conveniently pushed to the side in all cases.

Conclusion

On the occasions when Gravesham councils waste management services have been engaged in respect of this problem - services have fallen short of satisfactory. Rubbish is being ignored by the council because it is not causing an obstruction. A further issue is that on the 9th March the rubbish at point C has been pushed to one side and left in situ. All of the dumps are off to the side.

Contact: 07703026329

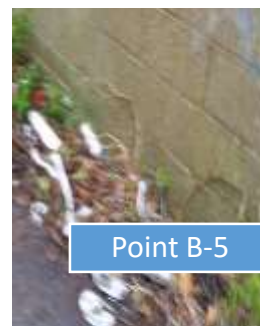
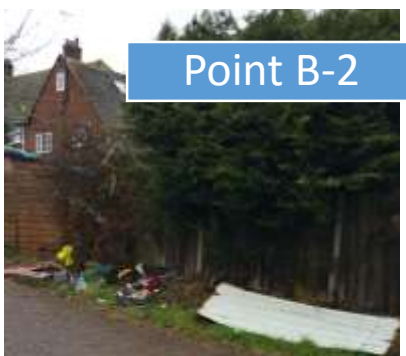
Map



Appendices

- 1 – Gallery
- 2 – Sites and Incidents Updated
- 3 – Issues Updated

Appendix 1 - Gallery

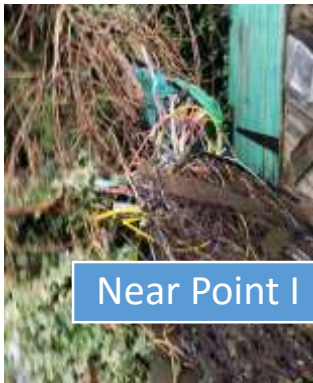




Point J - Asbestos



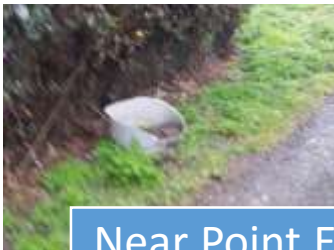
Near Point I



Near Point I



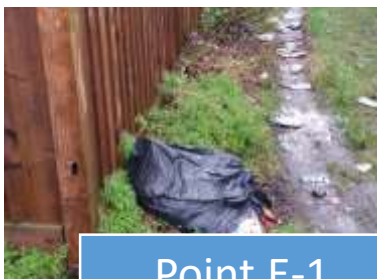
Near Point I



Near Point E



Point E-1



Point E-1



Point E-2

Point F-1



Point F-2



Point F-3

This Gallery Can be Viewed in More detail at
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/pez8ekmw8hy0juc/AAAoNB1j5trV4sJljpXNCW3Pa?dl=0>

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Appendix 1 - List of Sites and Incidents

Dump Site	Most Recent Incident	Impact	Approx Date Dumped	Current State	Date Removed	Remarks
B	Central Location regular dumping occurs	Environmental - Visual	Regular Dumps	Growing		
C	.25 Tonne Top soil and Flints	Damage to vehicle due to flint nodules. Dragged mud into properties. Vehicles and shoes dirtied, Distress to elderly neighbours, restricted access to properties.	Mid Feb 2016	In situ as at 7th March	n\	Luke Dietrich-Coke attended meeting on 23rd February Visited on 9 th March moved to one side and swept.
D	Approx 1 Tonne of Builders Waste Tipped from a vehicle	Obstruction to pedestrians and vehicles.	Nov 2015	Cleared	Nov 2015	10 to 14 day response noted
E	Fridge, Tyres and Various Other rubbish	Environmental - Visual	January 2015	Still in situ and growing	n\	
F	Long standing Dump .25 Tonne miscellaneous Household and industrial Waste	Environmental - Visual	All Year Round			
G	Regular Household Rubbish Dump in Cruden Road	Environmental – Visual\Vermin				
I	Industrial Waste	Visual	Long term			Present on 9 th March

Dump Site	Most Recent Incident	Impact	Approx Date Dumped	Current State	Date Removed	Remarks
J	Asbestos Sheets	Environmental\Health Hazard	November 2015	Still in Situ		

Appendix 2 - Issues

Issue No	Issue	Impact\Cause	Effect	Suggested Solution	Remarks
1	When Council staff attend incidents, they clear up the site but ignore other sites nearby.	Poor supervision	Contributes to problem	Supervision and Incident closure	This happened in relation to November 2015 incident at dump D. Rubbish was left at all other sites after clearance at D by council workers.
2	The council spent several thousand pounds on gates at A and G several years ago but these have remained open allowing outside people to tip from vehicles.	Frustration at wasted money	Contributes to Problem	Closing these gates will change the situation because only people with access will be able to dump rubbish.	There is no gate at H. Please note costs. Concerns about access for delivery vehicles and resident's caravans must be addressed
3	Reports submitted via Gravesham 24 App ignored or service delays.	Lack of communication	Response is not as good as the app suggests -		Please note service fails and costs.
4	Enforcement is a council responsibility and a service we pay for.			Covert surveillance has been used elsewhere. If the gates are closed and covered with cameras this is thought to be a workable solution combined with fines.	What does the council do exactly? Why do we never see environmental enforcement officers in the area but these are deployed regularly in town?

Issue No	Issue	Impact\Cause	Effect	Suggested Solution	Remarks
5	The council owns and controls plant such as road sweepers which we have paid for but which are not deployed in response to the incidents.				To clear the area today would require such equipment and a team for one day.
6	Residents already make many trips to the dump as waste management services are no longer fully effective.				
8	Blame culture. "The issue is caused by residents". (GBC) "The rubbish is on private property." (GBC)				See issue 4
9	No money at the end of the Financial Year "you will have to wait until the new FY" (GBC)				Residents pay council tax for a years services, year on year.
10	The waste is put there by residents (GBC). (See also issue 2).			Closing the gates to outside access will prove this.	
11	Some of the waste is on private property			The council contact property owners with enforcement notices	See issue 4

Issue No	Issue	Impact\Cause	Effect	Suggested Solution	Remarks
12	Amateur attempts to clear the rubbish to one side doesn't remove the problem. Residents interfering with it exacerbates the problem.				
13	"Access is not blocked" (GBC) "so we won't remove anything"				This doesn't prevent it from becoming an eyesore or encouraging vermin (Residents).
14	"It only takes one resident to object and we can't lock the gates."				We live in a democracy and not a dictatorship. All residents affected should be consulted and the majority solution adopted. Residents are easy enough to identify by the properties surrounding the area.
15	Council Workers attend and put rubbish to one side at Point C – all other sites not attended despite ample capacity in vehicle – see issue 1.			Workers are ignoring rubbish because it is not causing obstruction	