

Piddington and Wheeler End Parish Council

Fly Tipping Camera Policy

Agreed at the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 18th May 2021.

Fly tipping is a growing problem in many areas of the United Kingdom and the Piddington & Wheeler End Parish Council (“the Council”) area suffers frequently from this criminal activity.

Why fly-tipping is a problem

The illegal disposal of waste:

- causes environmental harm
- presents a risk to public health
- despoils the local environment
- reduces amenity value and affects communities
- may harm or injure wildlife, livestock and pets, and children attracted to it
- acts as a catalyst for further crime, including attracting more fly-tipping or arson, leading to a deterioration of the local environment and a reduction in public confidence in an area

In its more serious forms, illegally deposited waste can release pollution into the ground, groundwater, any nearby watercourses and into the air, and it can damage soil quality. This is particularly relevant if the waste is not cleared quickly and is allowed to decay, rain leaches substances from the waste, and/or the waste contains liquids or hazardous materials. It can also be set alight, generating numerous hazardous air pollutants.

Organised waste crime undermines our efforts to dispose of waste responsibly and also the viability of legitimate waste management businesses. Illegal operators undercut those operating within the law; they avoid waste disposal costs, permit fees and taxes, and do not invest in new waste recovery technology.

Our use of camera technology to detect and record fly tipping

The Council uses covert camera technology from time to time. Camera use is limited strictly to the monitoring of areas that are particularly vulnerable to fly tipping and the recording of evidence of fly tipping activity. Such evidence is handed to and used by the relevant authorities to prosecute and gain convictions of those responsible.

The Council has consulted with the Environmental Enforcement Team and Buckinghamshire Council and other experts in the technology and processes required to detect and prosecute the perpetrators of fly tipping. While it is necessary that details of the deployment of our cameras remains confidential, the Council have documented this Policy in the interests of transparency. Over time the Council may improve and change the way that cameras are used to detect fly tipping in line with expert advice and best practice. When these changes occur, this Policy document will be reviewed and updated by the Council to reflect the new arrangements.

The Council intends that its use of cameras provides additional resources to the Buckinghamshire Council fly tipping surveillance programme and that these resources are dedicated to our area and under our control.

The use of cameras by the Council will meet the following criteria:

- Be used only for the purposes of detecting and recording of fly tipping activity.
- Be used only in the Council area.
- Be used only in areas within the Council area that have been previously subject to fly tipping.
- Be used in compliance of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) including:
 - Using devices that password protect access to images and information.
 - Deleting all images and information as soon as it is established that they do not relate to fly tipping activity.
 - Deleting local copies of images and information that may relate to fly tipping activity once copies have been received by the relevant authorities.
- Permission to locate a camera on private property will be gained from the property owner before deployment.
- Cameras will not be deployed permanently at any single site.
- Cameras will usually be deployed in areas where Buckinghamshire County Council signage is present.
- The exact location of deployed cameras will be kept confidential.
- Accurate historical records of the date, time, location and period of deployment will be maintained.
- When not in use the cameras will be securely stored and not used for any other purpose without the express permission of the Council.

The use of cameras by the Council is a means of collecting evidence to support prosecution and conviction of the perpetrators. It is not intended to discourage or replace the reporting of fly tipping incidents to the relevant authorities by the people of the Parish.

If you see waste that you believe has been illegally disposed of then you can report it in the following ways:

- FixMyStreet is an independent website, built by the charity mySociety to make it easier to report problems in your community, even if you don't know who those reports should go to. Download the FixMyStreet app or go to <https://www.fixmystreet.com>
- Buckinghamshire Council also uses the FixMyStreet service. You can report fly tipping on their dedicated portal too <https://www.fixmystreet.bucksc.gov.uk/>

If you witness fly tipping in progress involving a vehicle then contact the police on 101 and give details to the police contact handler. Ensure you explain that the offence is in progress and give the police the exact location and the registration of the offender's vehicle.

Fly tipping is a recordable crime and the offenders may be caught during or soon after the offence. Do not report fly-tipping to the police unless you witness it as a crime in progress or the fly-tip is blocking a road and is presenting a danger to traffic. After calling the police Buckinghamshire Council with the police incident number and your own contact details.