

## **Briefing from Martin Skipper, Lewisham Clean Streets (enforcement) team**

The council's Clean Streets (Enforcement) team investigates all reports of fly-tipping where there is a witness or a realistic prospect of obtaining evidence from the fly-tip itself. The fly-tipping of household, commercial and industrial waste are all investigated. The fly-tipping of garden waste is difficult to investigate where there is not a witness or no clear sign of where the waste has come from, however the team does still investigate such incidents as appropriate.

The Clean Streets (Enforcement) Team is at a minimum level of staffing (there is not the resource to increase at this time), which does mean that the team mainly operates reactively to incidents and is not in a position to be as proactive as we would like.

In order for a fly-tipping to be properly investigated witnesses are often essential. The team take formal witness statements from witnesses to enable cases to be able to progress. When a witness provides a statement this usually leads to a suspect/s being interviewed. The witness may or may not then be required to attend court to give evidence. Whenever possible the need to use members of the public as witnesses will be avoided (ie we will try to gather sufficient evidence without the need to use a witness).

Whilst fly-tipping is usually a prosecution offence low level fly-tips can sometimes be dealt without the need for a witness to attend court to give evidence. In addition where a witness simply wants to provide anonymous intelligence this can be very useful.

However, if it does need to go to court, we will contact the witness again to see if they are happy for us to proceed, at which point we will make it clear that they may have to appear in court. So, to help, people need to report anything to us.

When witnessing fly-tipping incidents witnesses should try to note the following: 1. Date 2. Time. 3. Description of waste & location 4. Description of offender/s 5. Description of any vehicles involved. Witnesses should also try to obtain photographic evidence if safe to do so.

How to report fly-tipping:

For removal - 0208 314 7171, Love Lewisham (website or mobile app.) or via [www.lewisham.gov.uk](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk)

For investigation (if witnessed or there may be evidence in the fly-tip) - 0208 314 2170, Love Lewisham (website or mobile app.), [www.lewisham.gov.uk](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk) or via e-mail to [environmentalhealth@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:environmentalhealth@lewisham.gov.uk)