

REPORT PC25.121

Anti-Social Behaviour and Fly-Tipping Concerns in Old Sarum

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1. BACKGROUND

This report is presented to Council following correspondence from a resident of Old Sarum regarding persistent fly-tipping, inadequate waste management, and a serious safety concern involving a drain cover. The resident has lived in the area for five years and has reported multiple incidents via the MyWilts app without seeing meaningful resolution.

2. SUMMARY

Fly-Tipping and Waste Management

- The resident highlighted the pathway between Old Sarum Primary School and Partridge Way as a hotspot for fly-tipping.
- The Clerk responded to the initial complaint and arranged for the Operations Officer to inspect the site.
- The fly-tipped waste was found on land owned both by the Parish Council and Sanctuary Housing.
- Sanctuary Housing has been contacted and made aware of the issue.
- A quote of £444 inc VAT has been approved to remove the fly-tipped waste. Sanctuary has agreed to pay half of this.
- The Council's waste contractor is responsible for bin emptying and has been reminded of this obligation.

The resident has requested:

- A full clean-up of the affected areas. This is in progress.
- A review of current waste management practices.
- A reassessment of bin placements and quantities.

Drain Safety Incident

- The resident reported a serious incident in summer 2023 where a child fell into an uncovered drain approximately two metres deep and filled with human waste.
- The incident occurred due to a faulty or unsecured drain cover.
- The resident was able to rescue the child, but the situation could have resulted in serious injury or worse.
- The incident occurred on private land at that time owned by Persimmon but managed by Remus, a property management company. This was confirmed by Persimmon in a letter to the Parish Council shortly after the incident occurred.

3. CLERK'S ACTIONS TO DATE

- Site inspection arranged and completed by the Operations Officer.
- Contact made with Sanctuary Housing regarding fly-tipping on their land.
- Contact made with Salisbury City Council and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) regarding anti-social behaviour (ASB) initiatives.
- Enquiries made with Wiltshire Council's Community Safety Manager regarding potential support programmes. They recommend reporting via

asb@wiltshire.gov.uk until their automated system is fully functioning.

Currently, there are two ASB Officers covering Wiltshire. A visit to our area is possible if we have persistent issues.

- Consideration being given to signage to deter fly-tipping or other co-ordinated actions with Wiltshire Council (WC). Clerk has contacted WC Environmental Enforcement Team. Discussions in progress.
- Indicative Costs: Initial enquiries suggest that signage suitable for fly-tipping deterrence costs approximately £15 inc VAT per sign (per unit costs drop as quantities increase), excluding installation. Installation costs vary depending on location and ground conditions but are estimated at £30 to £50 inc VAT per sign.

4. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CONTEXT

- PCSO Jenny Moss has reported ongoing ASB (fire-setting) in the wooded area near Jerrard Grove, Longhedge.
- The Fire Service has provided photographic evidence of multiple recent fires.
- Police are increasing patrols and engaging with local youths on fire safety.
- The OPCC has confirmed that ASB wardens are only funded in the highest-priority areas of Wiltshire and Swindon, based on crime statistics. Currently only the top 0.0037% of areas in Wiltshire.
- Funding for these wardens is limited and due to end in March 2026.

5. CONCLUSION

A Parish Council has powers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to such anti-social behaviour as littering, graffiti and fly posting but not fly tipping¹. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, fly-tipping enforcement is the responsibility of the principal authority. Wiltshire Council in this case. WC recommends that any landowner discovering such an incident reports it in the first instance on the MyWilts app. If enough evidence is gathered WC may take action but removal of the waste remains the responsibility of the landowner.

The concerns raised by the resident are serious and multifaceted, involving environmental, safety, and community wellbeing issues. While some matters fall outside the direct control of the Parish Council, the Clerk has taken proactive steps to investigate and coordinate with relevant authorities.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is asked to:

- Support officer time for further engagement with Wiltshire Council and other agencies to explore long-term solutions. Such actions to be defined as discussions progress.
- Consider the installation of signage in fly-tipping hotspots.
- Should the Council proceed with signage in Old Sarum, it is likely that residents in other wards may request similar measures. This could increase pressure on the Council's precept budget. Therefore, Councillors may wish to consider whether a parish-wide policy on fly-tipping signage is appropriate, and whether a pilot scheme in Old Sarum could inform future decisions.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/parish-councils-fixed-penalty-notices> - these powers are subject to restrictions on use and enforcement.