



St Cuthbert (Out) Parish Council

c/o Monitoring Officer Mendip District Council

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PARISH GUIDE

Stopping Fly-Tipping

Fly-tipping is illegal, bad for the environment, despoils the countryside and can be a serious health hazard.

Householder and business duty-of-care

All householders and businesses have a statutory duty-of-care to ensure waste material and household items such as old fridges or washing machine, electrical goods, DIY waste material etc are disposed of correctly and legally.

All homes receive a regular waste and recycling service and have access to a network of recycling sites throughout the county. There are also many options to allow waste to be reused and other alternatives for bulky waste collections.

All businesses are responsible for making their own arrangements to recycle or dispose of their waste and there are many companies providing these services.

Waste carriers' licence

Anyone collecting waste must be licensed to do so. It is your responsibility to ensure the person collecting your waste is licensed. As well as some selfish householders, organised criminal gangs operate illegal waste disposal services and are responsible for fly-tipping. If the police or Environment officers find evidence linking a fly-tipping incident to you, for example by finding your address among the rubbish, you could be liable and face a stiff penalty. Therefore ALWAYS:

- Ask the waste carrier to provide you with their full address and telephone number.
- Ask to see their waste carrier licence issued by the Environment Agency.
- Contact the Environment Agency directly on 03708 506 506 and ask for a free instant Waste Carrier Validation Check. Alternatively you can check online on the Environment Agency website: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers>

Reporting fly-tipping

If you come across an incident of fly-tipping, do not disturb the site as there may be useful evidence leading to prosecution. There are simple ways of reporting it:

- For large-scale illegal dumping, such as lorries dumping rubbish, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or use their online form: [Giving information to Crimestoppers anonymously](#)
- For lesser amounts, inform Somerset Council:
By phone: 0300 123 2224
On-line: [Report fly-tipping](#)
- Or visit the Fix My Street website, and follow the simple instructions at <https://www.fixmystreet.com/>

Local councils have powers to penalise illegal fly-tipping and duty-of-care offences. Fixed penalty notices can be issued if people do not comply with the duty-of-care obligations. They could also be convicted and face up to 5 years imprisonment, an unlimited fine, or both.

What to do if you witness fly-tipping

If you see fly-tipping take no risks. **Do not touch anything fly-tipped or approach fly-tippers**, but when it is safe, please contact Somerset Council with details, such as:

- Amount fly-tipped and possible contents from a visual check only
- Location, time and date
- Whether in or near water
- Information about those who may be responsible, such as vehicle type, colour and registration number

More information

A guide produced by the National Fly-Tipping Prevention group is available for download at:

http://www.tacklingflytipping.com/Documents/NFTPG-Files/Main_doc_landowner.pdf