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Fly-tipping: how it can be stopped?

By Julia Lawrence

Bookcases are definite repeat offenders, along with sofas, mattresses, fridges and bags of building rubble. There's been the odd toilet bowl too. We are talking here about items 'fly-tipped' in East Finchley.

Large domestic and commercial items of rubbish can frequently be seen dumped on grass verges, or in communal bin areas, with a literal 'pile-on' ensuing as others follow suit. These are not just eyesores, they can also be major health hazards.

Notorious fly tipping hot spots in the area include areas of the Grange Estate, Prospect Ring, Brompton Grove alongside Cherry Tree Wood, the path between King Street and Claybrook Close, and under the North Circular flyover in Long Lane.



Rubbish dump: Mattresses, drawers, bookcases and children's play equipment are piled high next to the community bins in Prospect Ring, despite Barnet Council's warning poster, inset. Photo Mike Coles



Warning: No notice taken

Six weeks to clear

And the number of these unsightly heaps seems to be growing. One resident of the Grange told us of his frustration at a pile that developed for nearly six weeks, despite him reporting it almost daily through Barnet Council's dedicated website.

"It's really difficult to get through to the council and speak to a human being," he said, "and

when you do they are very nice, but all they do is direct you to the website, where you upload an image and description of the rubbish.

"I was doing this for six weeks, and the pile was getting bigger, before it was eventually cleared on 4 December. Then the morning after it was cleaned up, someone came along and dumped some shelving in the same place."

Downward spiral
 East Finchley councillor

Alison Moore told us that fly-tipping has always been an issue but is getting worse. "It's annoying and we can understand why people get angry about it," she said.

"We need to create an atmosphere where there is zero tolerance for fly tipping. It can make an area feel much more down at heel which encourages negative behaviour. But we need to be told about it.

"People are not being ignored. The trouble is, as

soon as a site is cleared, it's often the case that new rubbish immediately appears, which is frustrating for both local residents and the council."

Penalty notices

In September, Barnet Council launched its 'Caring for Our Places' campaign to crack down on fly-tipping which, it says, costs the authority £500,000 a year, collecting enough waste to fill seven Olympic-size swimming pools.

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