

Litter Free Leeds – further FAQs issued September 2021

1. **How to find out whether land is publicly or privately owned?**

We have a search tool that in most cases will indicate whether land is Leeds City Council owned or not and can advise you of this. If you e-mail us at environmental.action@leeds.gov.uk with your request, ideally with a map that indicates the area of land, we would be able to undertake this search for you. However, please give us some notice as we don't have someone whose job this specifically is to do.

2. **What should we do if we come across full/overflowing bins that are the responsibility of the Canal and River Trust?**

Bins found on canal/riverside pathways, tow paths and adjacent parking areas are almost always the responsibility of the Canal and River Trust to empty, unless they are clearly marked as a LCC bin. Report online at <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/contact-us/ways-to-contact-us> or ring 03030404040 (Mon-Fri)

3. **Number and value of fines issued for fly-tipping?**

We don't currently publish the figures. We tend to do press releases for those individual cases the press are most likely to cover/pick up on. However, will look at how a regular analysis can be published on the LCC website.

4. **How does the revenue from charging at waste tips compare with the Council cost of clearing fly-tipping?**

We realise this is a contentious issue. But the first point to make is that the vast majority of flytips we clear are not items that would have been charged for at the "tips" (household waste and recycling centres). The only items we make a small charge (typically £2.50 for a large bag) for at the HWRCs to residents are construction type materials such as plasterboard, soil, rubble, concrete and ceramics. Most flytips we clear (and as evidenced on LFL posts/photos) are actually those with household items such as mattresses/beds, furniture, fridges/white goods, kids toys etc. Where there are flytips that contain rubble/soil etc they tend to be trades/rogue landlords avoiding their commercial tipping costs, not individual residents avoiding a small charge at their local HWRC.

So, it is difficult to quantify the cost of clearing the element of flytips that just relate to items that are charged for at the HWRCs. The amount of income we received in 2019/20 (pre-pandemic) from the charging at HWRCs was £178k. If we removed the charge we would need to make savings equivalent to that amount, plus any disposal costs of any additional inert waste that we may then receive.

5. **Number and value of fines given out for littering and dog fouling?**

The number of littering fines issued by last year (2020) was 2,343. The number of dog fouling fines was 12. The fines for both litter and dog fouling is £100 reduced to £80 if paid within 10 days. If the Fixed Penalty Notices are not paid then in most cases these will proceed to a prosecution with the maximum fine being £1,000. The vast majority of the litter fines were issued in the city centre where it is far easier to witness the offence, apprehend the culprit and if necessary, gather further evidence. The reality of being able to witness littering, apprehend the culprit (with no powers of arrest at our disposal) and then get a real name and address outside the city centre is very small. Unfortunately, the fines we would get would go nowhere near covering the additional patrolling and enforcement cost that would be required.

One area we can do more with is littering from cars. To do this we need to be able to track down the registered keeper of a vehicle and in cases where we can establish who dropped the litter, we can issue a Fixed Penalty Notice. Where customers have witnessed/have evidence of littering from vehicles and are able to provide a statement or dashcam footage, these can be reported online by selecting "report littering" at <https://services.leeds.gov.uk/Home/Streets>

6. Are open bins going to be replaced?

We have over 4,000 street-based litter bins in total throughout the city. Our preference for street based litter bins is the model that you will see on most streets, which has a top and any new/replacement bin on a street would be this model. These cost around £200 each and there is an annual litter bin replacement budget of £40,000 (so enough to replace 200 broken/end of life bins across the city each year). The bins provided in parks and green spaces have a much greater number of generally smaller, open top bins and Parks currently have no plans to change this.

7. How should fly-tipping be reported?

Through the Council's online reporting page at www.leeds.gov.uk/flytipping.

8. How do we report political campaign materials that have not been removed in a timely manner?

For political campaign material at election time, we work with the various political parties to make clear the rules/requirements as to when posters can be put up and then have to be taken down by. Usually all parties are good at removing them and it's just ones that have accidentally been missed that remain. If they are made aware of any that have been missed in nearly all cases the offending signs are quickly removed. If you email us with the location, and a photo ideally, we will contact the relevant political party to request the removal.

9. Who do we report abandoned highways signs, sand bags etc. that are left behind when works are completed?

Please report online at <https://services.leeds.gov.uk/Home/RoadsAndTraffic> and by selecting "Report a general highways problem"; including details of what appears to have been left behind with an accurate location description (ideally using What3words or an attached map) and if possible a photo.

10. Has the Clear Waste app been considered?

We would prefer to refer residents to our website for online reporting of issues. as the website links automatically to our service case management system.

11. How can fly-tipping especially of bulky items, be discouraged from around certain recycling points (eg Clayton Grange)?

We try to discourage through signage that makes it clear these are not mini-tips as such and that it is an offence to leave items by the side of the bins. We do take enforcement action and publicise that where we can to deter.

12. What enforcement action can be taken against petrol stations when large numbers of disposal plastic gloves and other takeaway litter etc. blow around their site?

Where we are able to gather sufficient evidence to demonstrate the extent of the problem and that it directly relates to a business not sufficiently containing its waste, we can take action. Please report these issues using the online form found at: <https://services.leeds.gov.uk/Home/Properties> (and select "report waste issues on commercial premises").

13. What is the current rationale and policy with regard to 'relaxed mowing'?

On 18th September 2019 (decision ref:D50109) Executive Board under the title: Adapting Parks and Green Spaces for Climate Change, approved a series of changes to the way we manage our sites.

The report noted that Parks and green spaces in Leeds already make an important contribution to mitigating climate change with around 2,500 of the 4,000 hectares of land managed for public access either natural or semi-natural. They help reduce carbon dioxide emissions as well as mitigate against the effects of extreme weather events and build more resilient habitats to help sustain species and food production. The climate emergency declaration (by the council) will act as a catalyst to intensify

action and develop ambitious plans to plant more trees and create more resilient habitats that benefit pollinators and alleviate flood risks. This will be done in a way that improves the recreation value of those who visit and contribute to health, wellbeing and social cohesion.

The report approved intensified action to be taken in the areas of:

- Tree and woodland planting – To significantly increase the area of Leeds covered by tree canopy from the 17% baseline noted in 2019.
- Parks and green space management - To expand the area of grass (open spaces and verges) managed under relaxed regimes; to develop pollinator friendly habitats and to make changes to cemetery maintenance in line with the 'God's Own Acre' initiative.
- Parks and green space development – To plan Investment opportunities around the long term resilience of play and sport facilities in parks and greenspaces; to look at opportunities to support sustainable travel through increased walking and cycling and for ponds and wetlands in parks and open spaces to contribute to sustainable local drainage.

Further details of how these changes will be delivered, engagement planned with local communities and longer term management directed by site based management plans is contained in the report via this link: [Microsoft Word - Parks and Countryside Climate Change Sept 2019 Post Cabinet.doc \(leeds.gov.uk\)](#)

14. Where can I find the grass cutting schedules?

Information is available via <https://continental-landscapes.co.uk/websites/leeds/>

15. How do I report significant amounts of shredded litter?

Contact parks@leeds.gov.uk for the attention of the Grounds Maintenance team, or call 0113 3786002, and the details will be passed to the relevant team. Time is of the essence if significant (rather than small amounts of incidental) shredded litter occurs as crews can be asked to return within the same day and before they move district.

16. How can I find out the location of all the Council litter bins within my area?

We don't currently have electronic maps of the locations of all our litter bins that can be accessed by the public, though we are working on publishing ward based maps on the LCC website. In the vast majority of circumstances anyone litter picking will know or will quickly see where a LCC litter bin is and be able to leave their purple bag(s) by the side. However, if you have a specific need for a location map we can provide a more localised map on a limited basis. Any such requests should be made, through environmental.action@leeds.gov.uk

17. How do I report damaged, or in poor condition, Council litter bins?

Email environmental.action@leeds.gov.uk .

18. Is it possible to get support for a campaign "To Walk Your Litter Home"?

We are working with LFL on a joint action plan, part of which is to agree a priority order for campaign development/support, so what to focus on first. There are lots of good ideas being suggested and we need to agree what to concentrate on together to have the biggest impact and within the resources available.