

## **Volunteers needed to help tackle fly-tipping and littering in Monmouthshire**

An appeal for volunteers has been made as part of a partnership's clamp-down on fly-tipping and littering in Monmouthshire this month (February). Representatives from Keep Wales Tidy, Monmouthshire County Council's Tidy Towns and Gwent Police will join forces with Fly-tipping Action Wales and volunteers to clean-up three areas blighted by fly-tipping.

The partners are now appealing for volunteers to help take part in the operation, with the first meeting taking place at Warrenslade Woods off Bluebell Drive in Thornwell, **Chepstow on Sunday, 20 February** starting at 10.30am. Volunteers from Transition Chepstow Litter Action Group are already confirmed for the clean up mostly of household furniture.

In **Abergavenny**, a clean-up of fly-tipped waste on the ground owned by Our Lady and St. Michaels School and the Station Surgery in the town centre area, will take place on **Saturday, 26 February** starting at 10am. The meeting place for volunteers will be on Chapel Road. On **Wednesday, 23 February** at 1.30pm, areas in North Abergavenny will be cleaned up with support from Communities First volunteers, who will meet in Hillcrest Road.

Gary Inight, South East Regional Co-ordinator for **Fly-tipping Action Wales**, said: "Fly-tipping is an un-necessary blight and carries a hefty clean-up cost. Anyone is welcome to join in on any of the three clean-ups."

Deserie Mansfield, **Monmouthshire County Councils Tidy Towns: Tidy Local Communities Coordinator**, said: "Monmouthshire County Council is proud of the support we offer across the County. In addition to grant funding for community groups we also offer tools for loan for those wishing to enhance their own environments.

"To date, we have loaned equipment such as hay rakes, gardening equipment, shovels, tree and hedge laying or cutting equipment, high vis vests and gloves and even the odd wheelbarrow!"

Tom Ward-Jackson, Project Officer for **Keep Wales Tidy in Monmouthshire**, said: "Keep Wales Tidy hopes that these activities raise awareness of the problems caused by flytipping

and its negative impact on the quality of the local environment. We encourage individuals to take responsibility for their local area and invite anyone to help us at these events.”

Sergeant Tony Patey from **Abergavenny Neighbourhood Policing Team**, said: “We are happy to be involved in this event and offer our support. Litter and fly tipping can promote a perception in the community that laws can be disregarded and make an area look neglected, attracting more anti-social behaviour and crime. We hope that the community will take a pride in their local area and join in events to make them nicer and safer places to live and visit.”

To get involved in the clean-up contact Thomas Ward Jackson of Keep Wales Tidy on 02920 726 988 or email [thomas.ward-jackson@keepwalestidy.org](mailto:thomas.ward-jackson@keepwalestidy.org).

Find out more information on waste collections or to borrow equipment contact Deserie Mansfield, Monmouthshire County Council , Tidy Towns Coordinator – 01873 736037.

To safely and legally get rid of your unwanted house-hold goods, contact Homemakers on 01873 857 619.

For more information, visit [www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/recycling) or [www.fly-tippingactionwales.org](http://www.fly-tippingactionwales.org).

**Ends.**

**Notes to editors:**

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