



Press release

March 2011

## **Fly-tipping tipped to rise in The Valleys as spring's officially in the air**

As this week officially marks the start of spring\* (Monday, 21 March), Fly-tipping Action Wales is calling on householders in The Valleys to get rid of gardening and other waste from their homes responsibly.

Cases of illegally dumped green waste often rise during the spring clean period with almost 2,400 cases of green fly-tipping recorded in Wales\*\* during March and May last year. The latest figures shows that Welsh tax payers carry a clean-up cost of over £2.8 million per year (2009/10); money that could be better spent supporting important public services.

With an extra bank holiday for the Royal Wedding this year, Fly-tipping Action Wales claims that communities in The Valleys area could see a rise in fly-tipping, as more householders than ever carry out DIY and gardening.

The Welsh Assembly Government sponsored initiative, Fly-tipping Action Wales, a partnership of 40 agencies, has also received support from the European Regional Development Fund to tackle fly-tipping in The Valleys area, which includes nine Local Authority areas.

Fly-tipping Action Wales gives the following advice on getting rid of waste responsibly:

- Contact your Local Authority and be aware of your waste collection dates and Civic Amenity opening times over the bank holidays
- If you're getting rid of large household items such as sofas, contact your local authority to find out about their bulky waste collection
- Food and green waste is compostable. Check with your local authority about green waste recycling schemes
- If you are getting rid of large amounts of waste from your home, use a registered waste carrier who has the necessary licences to dispose of waste. Call 08708 506 506 or visit [www.fly-tippingactionwales.org](http://www.fly-tippingactionwales.org) for details.

Gary Evans, Valleys Regional Park Manager for Fly-tipping Action Wales, said: “We often see a rise in cases this time of year as people decide to de-clutter their homes and tidy up the garden ready for summer.

“People unknowingly give their unwanted goods to trade waste carriers believing that their waste will be disposed of legally and safely. But this can often result in cases of fly-tipping, which could be traced back to the householder who can be fined for fly-tipping.

“Fly-tipping blights our beautiful landscapes, recreational areas and can impact on our ability to attract tourists to The Valleys. It’s a crime which costs millions of pounds to clean up, and that money could be much better spent supporting critical public services such as hospitals and schools.”

Fly-tipping Action Wales also say that cases of green waste fly-tipped are as harmful to the environment, as Gary Evans continued: “Dumping green waste can attract vermin and be unsightly, which can have a negative impact on the environment.”

For general information visit [www.fly-tippingactionwales.org](http://www.fly-tippingactionwales.org) or [www.thevalleys.co.uk](http://www.thevalleys.co.uk)

**ENDS.**

**Notes to editors:**

For further information please contact Lisa Hocken or Catrin Millar at Equinox Communications on 02920 764100 or email [ftaw@equinoxcommunications.co.uk](mailto:ftaw@equinoxcommunications.co.uk).

**\*Fly-tipping Action Wales** is a Welsh Assembly Government sponsored initiative. The partnership includes a range of key organisations including the 22 Welsh Local Authorities, Environment Agency Wales, Keep Wales Tidy, The Countryside Council for Wales, the three National Park Authorities, The Forestry Commission, Network Rail, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water, Fire Service and South Wales, North Wales, Gwent and Dyfed Powys Police Forces. The initiative includes business engagement, education, community action, targeted publicity measures and enforcement.

**\*\*In The Valleys of South Wales** the programme is being delivered as part of The **Valleys Regional Park (VRP)** project. VRP is an exciting, dynamic initiative to plan, co-ordinate and deliver activities related to the environment, heritage and tourism across The Valleys of south Wales, working in conjunction with the Welsh Assembly Government’s Heads of the Valleys and Western Valleys Regeneration Programmes to change the reality and perceptions of The

Valleys, and through The Valleys Heart and Soul Campaign to promote the region as a highly-desirable place to live, work and visit. [www.thevalleys.co.uk](http://www.thevalleys.co.uk)

\*\*\* Further statistics available via:

<http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=6805>

**About fly-tipping:**

- Fly-tipping is a serious environmental crime which poses a threat to humans and wildlife, damages our environment, and spoils our enjoyment of our towns and countryside. In fly-tipping hot spots it can even reduce property prices, and local businesses may suffer as people stay away.
- One of the best ways the public can help in the fight against fly-tipping is to use an Environment Agency registered waste carrier and ask where your waste is going.
- You can find the registered carriers in your area by visiting [www.flytippingactionwales.org](http://www.flytippingactionwales.org) or calling 08708 506 506.

For further information please contact Catrin Millar or Helen Newton at Equinox Communications on 02920 764 100 or email [ftaw@equinoxcommunications.co.uk](mailto:ftaw@equinoxcommunications.co.uk)