

Environmental Enforcement



April 2025
Volume 1, Issue 2

We hope you enjoyed our first newsletter, We have started the year with good positive work and we are also sharing news on changes to the consequences that residents and visitors will face when they blight the district's environment

TOUGHER PENALTIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) of up to £1,000 for fly-tipping and £200 for littering can be issued across Folkestone & Hythe, as set out in environmental legislation. Failure to meet Duty of care when paying someone to dispose of their waste also brings increased sanctions.

It is all designed to deter people from damaging public spaces – and ensure residents and visitors who do offend pay the price. As of Tuesday 1 April, the following FPNs can be issued:

Offence	Amount of FPN	Reduced amount due if
Major incident of Fly-tipping	£1,000	£500
Minor incident of Fly-tipping	£500	£300
Minor incident of littering	£200	£150
Major incident of littering	£150	£100
Commercial incident of Duty of Care	£500	£300
Domestic incident of Duty of Care	£200	£150

These increased FPNs should make people think twice about damaging our environment and being inconsiderate to fellow residents. Several factors will be considered when determining the level of the incident. These include size, content, impact, the health and safety risk and location.

Early payment options are being introduced for the first time, and money collected can only be used for specific purposes – such as enforcement against fly-tipping, collection and disposal of discarded waste, and land restoration. Residents who witness fly-tipping, or see evidence of it (including dash cam, video doorbell or in person), are encouraged to report it to us. If you are unsure of your duty of care responsibilities you can email environmental.services@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk or call 01303 853660 for more information.



Getting in touch

There are several ways you can do this.

Go to the council website and create a 'MyAccount'

Click on 'Report it'

Scan the QR code below to take you directly to the reporting suite.

Use our LiveChat service on our website open from Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm

Email us on: environmental.services@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Call us on: 01303 853660 - Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm





Beaches

SEASONAL DOG RESTRICTIONS

Dog owners are being reminded of the annual seasonal restrictions coming into effect on nine of Folkestone & Hythe's beaches from 1st of May.

From 1 May to 30 September each year, our beaches are designated as dog-free to ensure that everyone can enjoy the seaside while also maintaining water quality.

We kindly ask dog owners to respect these seasonal restrictions and make use of the many other dog-friendly areas our district offers. Failure to comply with these reasonable rules could result in penalties of up to £1,000.

Join the thousands of responsible dog owners who help keep our waters safe by always bagging dog waste and disposing of it properly. Remember, bagged dog waste can be placed in regular litter bins as well.

If you'd like to check where the restrictions apply, they are available on our website or by clicking the link: [Dog Control Zones](#)

HAVE YOUR SAY...

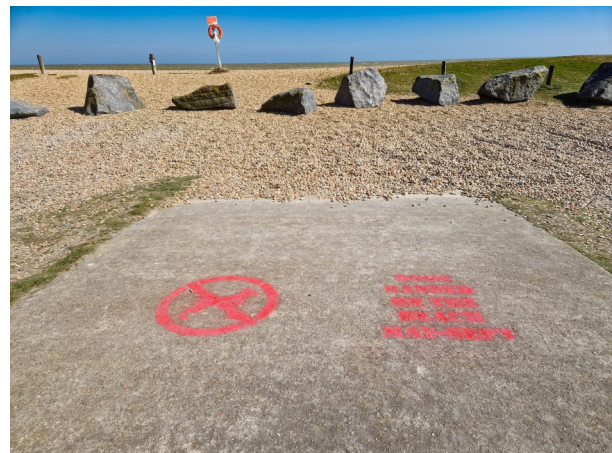
The current Public Spaces Protection Order will be open to public consultation in May so you have a chance to share your opinion on the changes proposed .

Please check our website for full details.

Our team has been hard at work visiting the beaches throughout the district, updating signage and refreshing the spray-painted signs along the coastline.

We're giving our beach signs a fresh look to help dog owners easily spot where and when pups are welcome, or when it's best to keep paws off the sand!

With 26 miles of sandy and shingle beaches, there are still plenty of options for your four-legged companions to enjoy along our shores. You can visit our website to view the dog walking areas.



What is Fly-tipping

Fly-tipping is any rubbish that has been dumped illegally. It spoils the environment and creates health and safety hazards.

We are involved in removing it from our streets, parks, and open spaces.

Fly-tipping is a criminal offence. It carries a maximum penalty of £50,000.

You have a legal duty to check that the person taking your waste is a registered waste carrier. If you fail to meet your Duty of Care towards your household waste, you could be prosecuted, or issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN)

You need to ask the person or business taking your waste to show you a copy of their waste carrier's licence, which is proof that they are registered to carry or accept waste.

It's important to also make a note of their name (or business name), vehicle type and registration. Record the date they took your waste away and ask them where your waste is going. Legitimate and responsible waste operators will be happy to provide you with this information.

We also recommend that you take photos of your waste before it is handed over and keep any messages exchanged with the person taking the waste.

REMEMBER THINK SCRAP WHEN DISPOSING OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD WASTE

Suspect all waste carriers

Check with the Environment Agency that the provider taking your waste away is licensed

Refuse unexpected offers to have waste taken away

Ask what will happen to your waste

Paperwork should be obtained – get a full receipt

If you find waste dumped on public property, report it to us and we will arrange for it to be picked up.
If you have witnessed the fly-tipping or can see evidence we will try to prosecute the offenders.



Responsibly dispose of household waste... it's free to visit re-cycling centres for general household waste.

[Kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning](https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning)

Let's work together to keep our district clean— report it!



Paws for Thought Community Day

Save the date! Sunday 8 June will see the first Paws for Thought Community Event in the district. We will be hosting a day of fun in the park for all to enjoy.

We are excited to announce that we will be holding a **fun dog show** at Radnor Park from 10am to 3pm. The dog show will be held in the main arena with categories such as the 'most handsome hound, the best rescue and the waggiest tail!' with displays to keep you entertained throughout the day.

We would love to hear from local businesses that may have stalls that either dogs or humans can enjoy. If you would like to find out more, please contact pawsforthought@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk for more information.

There will also be an array of educational stands to explore and people to chat with for example; our local RSPCA branch, the Community Safety team and our Animal Licensing specialist to name a few.

The Folkestone branch of the RSPCA will be holding a boot fair on half of the field with the added bonus that you don't have to be an early riser! Stallholders can set up from 9am with a start time of 10am. Stalls can be pre-booked by emailing Lucy at welfare@rspcafolkestonedistrict.co.uk

Pitches are £10 for a car, £15 for a van and all proceeds go towards helping the animals at the Folkestone branch.

WALKIES?



Visit www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/environmental-protection/dog-walking-areas to discover the best places to walk, woof and wag safely in our district.



Folkestone & Hythe

RSPCA FOLKESTONE

Registered charity no. 285183



PAWS FOR THOUGHT



Joint working partnerships

Road safety operation

Folkestone Road Safety Operation Results in Three Arrests

An operation aimed at tackling criminality on the roads in Folkestone has led to three arrests and 26 traffic offences being dealt with. On Friday 21 March 2025, Kent Police, alongside the Kent Special Constabulary and officers from Folkestone & Hythe District Council, conducted targeted patrols in Park Farm, Middelburg Square, Tontine Street, and surrounding areas.

Arrests Made

A dramatic foot chase unfolded across two levels of a multi-storey car park when an officer attempted to stop a vehicle seen driving the wrong way up a one-way road. The driver failed to stop when requested, exited the vehicle, and attempted to flee but was swiftly apprehended by the police. The 43-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of drug driving and traffic offences.

Two additional arrests were made in connection with suspected drug driving. A 33-year-old man was stopped in Middelburg Square, and a 48-year-old man was detained in Cheriton Road. All three men have since been released on bail, and investigations are ongoing.



Traffic Offences Tackled

Throughout the operation, a total of 26 traffic offence reports were issued. Seven individuals were reported for not wearing seatbelts, while five were caught using a mobile phone while driving. Other offences included incorrect window tints, damaged lights, unsafe loads, illegal tyres, and a motorcycle with an exhaust that didn't meet legal standards.

Additionally, several drivers were reported for failing to provide the correct documentation, such as MOT certificates. Two cars were seized after it was discovered that they were not insured.

Penalty Notices and Advice

Four penalty notices were issued, and police engaged with 30 people to provide advice on safer driving. Council officers also focused on issues related to taxi licensing and waste carrier licences, ensuring that those in the area were adhering to the necessary regulations.

Working Together

PC Kevin Marsh emphasized the importance of the operation, stating, "The focus of our operation was to tackle those who are more likely to cause problems on the roads around Folkestone. Anyone who gets behind the wheel without the correct driving licence, insurance, or who has not maintained their vehicle to a roadworthy standard can become a risk to others on the road."

He continued, "Working with teams such as the Road Safety Unit and our partner agencies meant we could address a wide range of potential offences and disrupt criminal activity."

This successful operation highlights the continued effort to make the roads in Folkestone safer for everyone. The joint effort between Kent Police, the Special Constabulary, and the Folkestone & Hythe District Council shows the strength of collaboration in tackling road-related criminality.

Enviro-Crime busters

QUARTERLY UPDATE



Fly-tipping like the dumping of the cupboard pictured above, won't be tolerated. Offenders have been investigated and issued Fixed Penalty Notices for dumping waste illegally.

We are currently preparing case files for non-payment of FPNs issued for offences including the burning of commercial waste, littering, fly-tipping and dog fouling. These matters are being taken seriously and may lead to further legal action if unresolved.

Several local residents have been issued Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for not keeping their dogs on leads while walking in areas such as the Leas and Cheriton Cemetery

This year, 21 dogs have been reported lost in our area. While some have found their way back home, others have been unclaimed, but we're happy to share that they've since been rehomed with kind, loving families after thorough checks.

A series of fixed penalties have been issued for various offences such as burning commercial waste, littering, and allowing dogs to roam off-lead in areas protected by Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs).

PSPOs are designed to maintain public order and safety, particularly in areas that are vulnerable to anti-social behaviour.

They allow local councils to enforce specific rules and issue penalties for breaches. Offences like burning commercial waste or littering can have significant environmental impacts, and allowing dogs off-lead in PSPO areas may lead to safety concerns or disturb the public.

Despite multiple signs in the area, several residents have still failed to keep their dogs on leads in the PSPO areas.

The team has issued several fixed penalty notices, but we'd much rather see everyone following the rules and keeping our community safe and enjoyable for all! Let's all help make sure our parks and public spaces stay dog-friendly for everyone by sticking to the lead rules. It's simple, and it makes a big difference!



All commercial waste must be disposed of properly—either through licensed waste carriers or by hiring a skip, not by burning it. Burning waste can harm the environment and create health risks. Let's make sure we're handling waste responsibly and helping keep our community clean and safe for everyone!

