

# Here's a (fly) tip: Don't dump rubbish in our district

A traveller whose vehicle was used in a fly-tipping incident in Hawkinge is facing a bill of more than £1,100 thanks to the evidence of two witnesses - including the Mayor of Hawkinge.



Sean Buckland was a member of the unauthorised encampment at The Mound during the summer of 2018.

Tree logs and other branches were seen being unloaded from his white transit van nearby on 1 July of that year.

Despite initially suggesting he was not involved, Mr Buckland was unable to prove that anyone else was in control of the vehicle on the date and time in question.

He pleaded guilty to knowingly causing or permitting fly-tipping, contrary to Section 33 of the Environment Protection Act 1990, at a Folkestone Magistrates' Court hearing on 10 February 2020.

Sean Buckland received a £450 fine, and ordered to pay £670 costs and a £45 victim surcharge - leading to a total bill of £1,165.

Cllr Stuart Peall, F&HDC Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Regulatory Services, Waste and Building Control, said: "This incident, sadly, was in addition of the other waste we had to clear when the encampment left the site.

"Fly-tipping spoils the appearance of our district for the majority of people who dispose of their waste properly.

"We encourage all residents who see such incidents to report it to us so we can win the war against fly-tipping.

"Anyone with information they think should be investigated can visit [folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/report-a-problem](https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/report-a-problem)."

Cllr Glyn Hibbert was one of two people to contact F&HDC with important information having seen the logs and branches being dumped from a white van.

Although he couldn't see the person who deposited the waste, the Mayor of Hawkinge took a note of the van's registration plate and shared the information with the council. This ultimately led to a successful prosecution.

Cllr Hibbert added: "Hawkinge Town Council and residents are very pleased with the outcome of the court case, and we thank the district council's environmental team for persisting with this matter as fly-tipping is unacceptable."

Residents are reminded they should ask to see the business' waste carrier licence, enquire where the items will be disposed of, and keep an invoice or receipt when hiring a waste disposal service.

If you don't and your waste ends up being fly-tipped, you could face a £400 fine.

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