

Part 2 - An overview of public litter and fly-tipping

1. Introduction

This paper aims to set out the approach taken to litter and fly-tipping taken by OCC. ODS Streetscene are responsible, on behalf of OCC for cleaning all public spaces under the Council's control, this includes:

- All adopted streets within the city boundary
- All Council owned open spaces
- Verges
- Parks
- Play Areas
- Footpaths and cycle paths
- Countryside sites

Included within this are numerous areas that are OCC HRA owned, primarily within the larger estates of Blackbird Leys, Rose Hill, Wood Farm and Northway.

The overarching objective is to keep an area 'safe, clean and looking good'.

2. Litter Bin Management

Litter and street cleaning are dealt with in a variety of ways depending on the nature of the location and allowing for seasonal variation. The primary desire is that residents and visitors would self-regulate and dispose of litter at home.

However, it is recognised that this is not always practicable and there are therefore a network of over 995 litter bins and 278 dog waste bins across the city. The placement of these has evolved and will continue to do so as society and usage changes. For instance, with a significant reduction in print media, bins at every bus stop are not necessarily required. We will keep locations under review and trial both additional bins, or the removal of bins to ensure a demonstrable benefit.

Bins around the city are checked daily and emptied if half full. Frequency can be much greater in some locations such as the city centre where collections can be up to 8 times a day, or busy parks on sunny weekends. The service therefore has to remain highly flexible to combinations of weather, holidays, events etc. Altogether ODS pick-up, collect and dispose of around 1,500 tonnes of litter each year.

As a second-tier authority, the disposal of litter, including fly tipping materials, is directed by the County Council. The majority of litter disposal is directed towards Redbridge HWRC, however there are significant exceptions:

- Street sweepings from large sweepers are directed to Oakley Wood (Grundon)
- Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), such as soft furnishings, are directed to Sutton Courtenay (FCC). This was a legislative change in 2023.

| Redbridge Litter | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | Total |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| 23/24 | 116.00 | 130.22 | 141.90 | 130.20 | 124.70 | 132.26 | 127.39 | 130.16 | 109.92 | 121.12 | 117.00 | 116.31 | 1497.18 |
| 24/25 | 121.58 | 114.92 | 104.14 | 119.50 | 123.58 | 114.89 | 97.00 | 124.94 | 127.74 | 114.40 | 110.88 | 137.86 | 1411.43 |
| 25/26 | 137.48 | 136.28 | 136.18 | 136.68 | 126.96 | 94.23 | 86.48 | 137.45 | 142.37 | 144.45 | | | 1278.56 |

3. Street Sweeping and Litter Picking

All areas of the city are cleaned regularly with frequencies based on needs. These can be summarised as follows:

- High litter areas such as shopping parades are swept daily including all of Cowley Rd, Summertown, Headington and other smaller parades. These are attended early mornings to avoid periods of high footfall. This work begins at 5 am 364 days per year.
- Parks are litter picked on varying frequencies depending on usage, but litter bins are checked at least daily.
- Suburban areas are visited monthly as a minimum, but some areas, due to demand are visited more frequently.

As can be seen from the table below, around 1,900 tonnes of road sweepings are due to be collected and disposed of in 25/26 year across the two disposal sites.

| Redbridge Sweepings | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 23/24 | 97.00 | 80.48 | 66.80 | 53.58 | 52.58 | 71.18 | 109.46 | 109.06 | 84.80 | 87.90 | 84.60 | 52.04 | 949.48 |
| 24/25 | 76.10 | 75.35 | 70.00 | 79.48 | 84.62 | 74.70 | 96.25 | 57.36 | 106.20 | 65.18 | 48.10 | 53.90 | 887.24 |
| 25/26 | 73.91 | 82.27 | 76.72 | 75.76 | 59.60 | 67.79 | 116.18 | 123.14 | 109.62 | 92.58 | | | 877.57 |
| Grundon Sweepings | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | |
| 23/24 | 86.13 | 39.28 | 33.73 | 37.58 | 30.08 | 59.26 | 94.13 | 120.35 | 106.97 | 57.91 | 76.12 | 69.78 | 811.32 |
| 24/25 | 90.90 | 67.78 | 38.32 | 67.58 | 58.84 | 76.62 | 67.56 | 24.84 | 47.18 | 66.28 | 45.12 | 39.54 | 690.56 |
| 25/26 | 44.92 | 35.80 | 60.34 | 63.32 | 70.76 | 76.74 | 73.84 | 88.74 | 93.08 | 82.26 | | | 689.80 |

4. City Centre

City centre cleaning starts at 4.30am focusing initially on the main shopping areas and working outwards to ensure cleaning is completed prior to peak shop delivery periods, the appearance of other service vehicles and shop façade cleaning. Known hotspots for detritus arising from the Nighttime Economy (NTE) and rough sleeping is dealt with prior to normal business hours. The NTE continues through to 3 am 6 days per week presenting considerable challenges the next morning.

After the initial sweep, litter picking continues throughout the day until 7.30pm including outer areas of the City centre such as Jericho.

The team routinely deal with issues arising from trade waste presentation, such as spread of waste by people or animals, spillages etc.

Routine high-pressure street washing takes place across the city centre, in particular to tackle prevalent staining of the porous York stone paving. This paving is very easily stained by spillages as well as tyre marks and requires intense cleaning to maintain the appearance.

5. Fly-tipping

The team handle circa 5,000 individual fly-tips a year. The total number of fly tipping incidents cleared in 2024/25 was 5,179. These occur in all areas of the city but are more prevalent in East Oxford. Of this fly-tipping, around 14% are items that might be classed as 'bulky household waste' although they may also be from commercial premises. On occasions fly-tipping will include hazardous waste such as Asbestos, but the overwhelming majority consists of mixed household waste or DIY waste.

The crews receive these reports through 'Fix My Street', via the contact centre, or through observations made by the team themselves. The staff have been trained by the Safer Oxford team in the gathering of appropriate evidence, and in all instances will examine for possible evidence before disturbing or removing the items. Any evidence gathered is passed to the Community Response Team (CRT) for potential investigation and issue of Final Penalty Notices (FPNs) or prosecution.

Due to the requirement to dispose of different waste streams at different locations it can be necessary to make several separate visits to the same fly-tip occurrence to facilitate disposal for example, a fridge, a cooker and a sofa. The introduction of the POPs legislation required ODS to dedicate a caged collection vehicle and 2 staff, 2 days each week for the additional tasks of separate collection and disposal.

Each year approximately 900 tonnes of fly-tipping are collected and disposed of with an additional 50 tonnes of POPs anticipated in 25/26.

| Redbridge Fly-Tip/Butky | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 23/24 | 64.72 | 81.04 | 58.30 | 59.92 | 76.10 | 75.74 | 80.14 | 56.04 | 60.52 | 57.66 | 61.90 | 59.04 | 791.12 |
| 24/25 | 82.29 | 94.02 | 88.97 | 110.35 | 105.44 | 109.54 | 130.15 | 55.84 | 31.68 | 67.28 | 52.40 | 71.11 | 999.07 |
| 25/26 | 75.78 | 64.52 | 71.82 | 101.90 | 102.48 | 115.40 | 125.13 | 45.58 | 39.96 | 25.92 | | | 768.49 |

| FCC POPs | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | |
|----------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 23/24 | 5.74 | 4.36 | 2.60 | 4.90 | 5.82 | 4.98 | 5.40 | 7.48 | 5.88 | 6.94 | 5.82 | 4.32 | 64.24 |
| 24/25 | 13.76 | 4.84 | 3.70 | 5.62 | 6.16 | 5.24 | 9.42 | 4.16 | 6.00 | 5.34 | 4.90 | 5.46 | 74.60 |
| 25/26 | 4.84 | 3.94 | 5.68 | 6.72 | 3.34 | 4.70 | 5.26 | 2.86 | 2.94 | 1.82 | | | 42.10 |

6. Enforcement

ODS do not have any enforcement responsibility in relation to littering but will provide evidence to the CRT. In addition, ODS will be involved in any targeted initiatives in partnership with CRT.

7. Overview of the Streetscene Service

In summary the Streetscene service is responsible for:

- Recycling around 800 tonnes of waste annually.
- Dealing with 5,000+ public reports for things like fly tipping and other Streetscene service-related requests per year. This is on top of the standard planned cleansing schedules for the Urban and Suburban areas of the city.
- Cleaning and maintaining 21 public conveniences on behalf of OCC.
- Emptying over 995 public litter bins per day, seven days per week.
- Cleaning and maintaining Oxford's historic Covered Market.
- Looking after all of the City's parks and green spaces, including pavilions.
- Supporting many of Oxford's large-scale events such as St Giles Fair, The Oxford Half Marathon and the Cowley Road Carnival.
- Responding to circa 1,000 queries per year relating to abandoned vehicles and abandoned bikes.
- Removing over 600 abandoned bikes (24/25 figure) to free up space in the most heavily used bike racks, over 400 of which were donated to various charities.
- Removing around 10,000 instances of graffiti from the city last year.

Other service provided by the Streetscene team but not covered in this paper include:

- Graffiti Removal
- Chewing gum removal
- Fly-posting removal
- Dog Warden Service
- Abandoned Vehicles service (including bikes)
- Public toilet cleaning
- HRA communal area cleaning including bin store clearance and cleaning

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