

COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

✉ **Postal Address:** Highfield Park Visitor Centre, Hill End Lane AL4 0RA
☎ **Telephone:** (01727) 825 314
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2025-26 Item 45d

Fly tipping at Warren Farm Track, Coursers Road

Purpose of Report

To update councillors on three recent incidents of fly tipping at Warren Farm track, Coursers Road, and to seek guidance on potential measures to address the problem.

Recent Incidents

- **Incident 1 – 28 July 2025**
Waste: 7 mattresses, 1 small suitcase, 3 dining chairs, 1 bag of cement, and various other small items.
Cost to clear and dispose: £1,280.00 + VAT
- **Incident 2 – 17 August 2025**
Waste: Railway sleeper, wood, concrete, paving slabs, approx. half a dozen tiles, small table.
Cost to clear and dispose: £350.00 + VAT
- **Incident 3 – 19 August 2025**
Waste: Ceramic wall/floor tiles, fridge freezers, bathroom fittings including a bath, plasterboard, empty tile boxes/packaging, and car tyres.
Cost to clear and dispose: £1,280.00 + VAT

Issues

- The incidents highlight a continuing problem with fly tipping in this location, with significant financial and environmental costs to the Parish.
- Total clearance costs for the three incidents alone amount to £2,910.00 + VAT.

Options to Combat Fly tipping

1. Close the Gate to the Track

- Closing the gate could deter access for fly tippers.
- Challenges: Key management and legitimate access for landowners/contractors. Waste may simply be dumped in front of the gate, which is set too far back from the road, creating obstruction and visibility issues.

2. Install Wildlife/Surveillance Cameras

- Could assist in identifying offenders and act as a deterrent.
- Challenges: Previous cameras installed in the area were stolen. Would require Council to purchase replacement equipment and potentially consider more secure or disguised units.

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3. Work with Enforcement and Partner Agencies

- Liaise with St Albans City & District Council's Environmental Crime team and Hertfordshire Police to target the area for increased monitoring.
- Possibility of signage warning of surveillance and penalties for offenders.

4. Community Engagement

- Encourage reporting by residents and landowners to build evidence of activity.
- Publicising prosecutions or enforcement activity (if achieved) as a deterrent.

Recommendation

That Council considers whether to:

- Approve the purchase of wildlife/surveillance cameras for use at Warren Farm track, accepting the risk of theft.
- Request further discussions with St Albans City & District Council regarding enforcement measures.
- Consider more signage in the area concerning surveillance and penalties
- Defer any decision on permanently closing the gate until a more workable access solution is identified.

Parish Clerk/RFO

02/09/2025